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MEMOIRS

OF

THE MARSTONS OF SALEM,

WITH A BRIEF GENEALOGY

OF

SOME OF THEIR DESCENDANTS.

"Like the race of leaves
Is that of humankind. Upon the ground
The winds strew one year's leaves: the sprouting wood
Puts forth another brood, that shoot and grow
In the spring season. So it is with man!
One generation grows while one decays."—*Bryant's* ILIAD.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

The materials for this sketch of the lives of three individuals of successive generations, all bearing the name of Benjamin Marston, have been gathered principally from a number of old letters, account-books, and other manuscripts which have escaped destruction in their passage from the hands of the original writers down to those of the present possessor. To these I have added the substance of such private records and personal recollections as have existed among the later descendants of the same families.

I have been much assisted in collecting these materials by the friendliness of George D. Phippen, Esq., of Salem, who has laid me under great obligations, by many acts of kindness, and especially by the loan of his manuscript volume of "Marston Papers," from which many of the letters in these memoirs have been copied. I am also indebted to Mr. Perley Derby, of Salem, who, while searching, at my request, the public records of deeds, wills, births and deaths, in Salem and Marblehead, for the verification of facts and dates, obtained for me the solution of a very puzzling problem of personal identity, and rendered it as "clear as a demonstration."

John L. Watson.

Orange, New-Jersey, 1873.

THE MARSTON FAMILY OF SALEM, MASS.

JOHN MARSTON.

John Marston, the first Cis-Atlantic Progenitor of this name and family, came to Salem from Ormsby, Norfolk, England, in the year of our Lord 1637, when he was twenty-two years of age. He was born in 1615. On the 4th of August, 1640, he married Alice, surname unknown, and on the 2d of June, 1641, he was admitted a freeman.

Between the years 1641 and 1661 inclusive he had ten children "baptized in the 1st ch. Salem;" namely: i. John, b. June 29th, 1641; bap. Sept. 12. ii. Ephraim, b. Aug. 30, 1643; bapt. Dec. 10. iii. Manasseh, bap. Sept. 7, 1645. iv. Sarah, bap. March 19, 1648. v. Benjamin, b. Jan. 9, 1651; bap. March 9. vi. Hannah, bap. April 17, 1653. vii. Thomas, bap. Oct. 1655. viii. Elizabeth, bap. Aug. 30, 1657. ix. Abigail, b. Dec. 19, 1658; bap. April, 1659. x. Mary, b. March 23, 1661.

Very little else is known about him; but probably his occupation was that of a carpenter. He was evidently diligent and prosperous in his business. He brought up his large family in a decent and respectable manner; taught them all "to earn their own living," and at his death, as appears by his will, he bequeathed to them "his house and land, and some money." All his sons, and perhaps his daughters also, were members of the 1st church; some were influential in town matters; and three were chosen representatives to the general court.

Still less is known about his wife Alice; no record has been found of her family-name or station, life or death.[1] But from the foregoing account of births and baptisms, it may reasonably be presumed, whatever was her condition, that she fully realized the scriptural blessing: "She kept house, and was a joyful mother of children." Ps. cxiii. 8.

John Marston made his will the 18th of December, 1681, being then in extremis. The following verbatim et literatim extracts show that it was

[1] It appears from the account-books of her son Benjamin that she was alive in 1688.

drawn up by some one who did not know how to spell even the name of the testator.

"I. John Merstone Senier, being sicke and weake in body am willing to sett my house in order. and as for my outward substance I am willing & do hearby give unto my wife all my whole estate for hir life time exsept my sonne John Merstone, 2[s] & y[e] rest of my children twellpence a peece. I do also make my Sones John Merstone & Manasseth Merstone my joynt Exsecitars for all my house & land unsold. & for my sonne Benjemen I doe give him five pounds att my wives desease if their be so much left. · · · · · · · · & for the movebls to be given to my two daughters Sarah & Abigail as my wife see convenient. This is John Merstons last will and testiment.

JOHN MARSTON. [Seal.]

Witness heartwo, William King
Samuell Robinson
1681 the month called December 18.

He died the next day, December 19. On his grave-stone in the old Salem Burying-Ground is the following inscription:

"Here lyeth y[e] body of John Marston, Senior, aged 66 years. Dec'd. December 19th. 1681."

On the grave-stone of the wife of his oldest son, John,[1] is the following:

"Remember to Day Time flies away."

"Here lyeth buried y[e] body of Mary y[e] wife of John Marston 2[d].
"Aged 43 years. Dyed y[e] 25th of May, 1686."

BENJAMIN MARSTON, THE FIRST.

BENJAMIN MARSTON, the first of this name and lineage, was the fourth son of the preceding John Marston, and was born in Salem, January 9, A.D. 1651.

On the 25th of September, 1678, he married, first, Abigail Veren, daughter of Hilliard and Mary (Conant) Veren;[2] baptized Aug. 21, 1655. She "died just previous to March 14, 1692–3."

The children by this marriage were: i. Abigail, born August 28, 1679; married in 1702 George Cabot, of Boston. ii. Joseph, baptized Aug. 1681; probably died young.

On the 15th of April, 1696, he married, second, Patience Rogers, daughter of the Rev. John[3] and Elizabeth (Denison) Rogers, of Ipswich; born May 13, 1676.

[1] "John Marston jr, son of John 1st m'd May 7th 1664 Mary Chichester, born 1643; died May 25th, 1686."

[2] Hilliard Veren, the son of Philip Veren, was a respectable merchant in Salem, and clerk of the county court. "In 1663 he was elected by the legislature, as collector of the port." (Felt's Annals.) He married Mary Conant, April, 1641, and had children: *Mary*, bap. July 1, 1652; married Samuel Williams. *Sarah*, bap. Feb. 22, 1654; married Deliverance Parkman. *Abigail*, bap. Aug. 21; married Benjamin Marston. Besides these there was a son *Hilliard*, and a daughter *Dorcas*, and perhaps others.

[3] The Rev. John Rogers, M.A., was the first on the list of graduates of Harvard College who became its president; he married Elizabeth, only daughter of Major-General Daniel

The children by this marriage were: i. Benjamin, born February 24, 1697. ii. John, born Sept. 15, 1699. iii. Elizabeth, born June 9, 1701; married Sept. 29, 1737, Samuel Barton;[1] and died February 12, 1784.

In the year 1696, according to the town records, "Benjamin Marston was chosen Deputy and Representative to the General Court of Massachusetts." He was also "one of the Selectmen of the Town," and "a Deacon," after the Congregational mode, in the first church in Salem.

From an old leger and letter-book kept by him during the years 1679–1692 inclusive, which, having passed through the hands of six generations of his descendants, is now in the possession of the writer of this sketch, it appears that he was an active and enterprising merchant, and carried on an extensive and profitable business for many years.[2] He owned "two warehouses, and the wharves on which they stood"; and several vessels,—"Briganteens, Ketches, Shallops, and Sloops, engaged principally in the W. India and Nova Scotia trade," and "some large vessels in the Bilbo and M'd't'nean traffick." He also owned a great deal of real estate in Salem and the neighboring towns, and was generally considered a man of large property."[3] In the year 1700, or perhaps later, he built a "large and handsome Brick Dwelling House," which is thus described:

"Of the first Brick houses known in Salem, was Benjamin Marston's, mentioned 1707, as having been made by George Cabot, a mason of Boston. Its location is occupied by the Lee house, at the corner of Crombie and Essex Streets. It was an elegant edifice for its day. It had free-stone

Denison, of Ipswich, whose wife Patience was daughter of Gov. Dudley.—*N. E. Hist. and Gen. Register*, vol. v. p. 137.

The children of President Rogers were: i. *Elizabeth*, b. Feb. 1662; married, Nov. 23, 1681, Hon. John Appleton, of Ipswich; died March 13, 1754. ii. *Margaret*, b. Feb. 18, 1664; married, first, Capt. Thomas Berry; and second, Nov. 25, 1697, President John Leverett, H. C. 1680; died June 7, 1720. iii. *John*, b. 1666. iv. *Daniel*, b. 1667. v. *Nathaniel*, b. 1670. vi. *Patience*, who married Benjamin Marston, as above.

[1] Son of Dr. John Barton, who came from England to Salem in 1676. E. M. was the second wife of Samuel Barton.

[2] Among his business correspondents are the names of "John and Henry Higginson"; "Adam Winthrop of Boston"; "John Allin," "Dan. Allin"; "Capt. Marshall of Boston"; "Humfry Dane"; "John Appleton"; "George Cobett"; "John Cobbit"; "Danl Cobet" [Cobett, Cobbit, and Cobet, were modes of spelling Cabot]; "Mr. Barton, Rope maker of Boston"; "Wm. Jordan, of Bridgtown, Barbados"; "N. Bradly, of Halifax"; "Mr. Byfield, of S. John's"; and many others. Among his "Domestick Acc'ts" are the names of "Mother Marston"; "Bro. Manasseh Marston"; "Brother John Marston"; "Bro. William"; "Unkel William"; "Mother Veren"; "Father Veren"; "Bro. Deliver^ce Parkman"; "Bro. Sam'l Williams"; "Bro. Wedleigh, of Exon," or Wadleigh of Exeter, who probably married his sister Abigail, daughter of John Marston, Sen.

[3] By an examination of the files in the registry of deeds office of co. Essex, made by Mr. Perley Derby, of Salem, it is found that between the years 1686–1702, Benjamin Marston purchased, or otherwise possessed, the following: March 14th, 1692–3. One p'ce of land in North-Fields, cont. 35 acres; one p'ce of land in the town, cont'g ½ an acre. Three acres land about 2 miles from ye meet'g house, just within "ye *Butts*," all w'h land is situated in Salem. Jan. 17, 1686, a parcel of land between ye warehouses of John Ruck & John Tawley, "about 250 or 300 square feet." Feb. 17, 1697–8, ¼ part of a Saw mill in Salisbury; ¼ p't of another saw mill in Amesbury; also, May 19, 1699, "50 pole of land on street, b'd by land of Stephen Sewall, John Higginson 3d, &c." April 4, 1699, Benj. Gerrish's Orchard, at a place call'd Sharp's Field. Dec'r 31, 1700. A small Island call'd House Island, in Manchester harbour. Ap'l 9, 1701, a farm of 500 acres in Casco Bay, Maine; also an island in Casco Bay, about 1000 acres; also 200 acres at head of Casco Bay, &c.

capitals for its front corners, which were subsequently placed on posts before 'the Kitchen-Mansion,' at the corner of Essex and Beckford Streets. Tradition relates that the wife of Mr. Marston persuaded him to have the house pulled down, because she supposed it was damp and injurious to health, and that this circumstance created a strong prejudice here against brick dwellings."—*Felt's Annals*, vol. i. p. 414.

Subsequently, however, a great change seems to have taken place in his circumstances. In the year 1707–8, as we learn from the town records, Essex deeds, and other sources, he was beginning to sell and mortgage his real estate, his farms and saw mills, his warehouses and wharfs, his two islands called "ye Great & Little Misery," and generally to retrench expenses; and at last, on the 4th of May, 1719, "Benjn Marston, with his wife Patience, mortgages to Col^l^ Saml Brown Esq^e^, his homestead, consisting of a large brick dwelling house, with a small brick outhouse, called a wash house, with land they stand on, containing 50 Rods," &c. In the following letter from his son we have some explanation of these changes:

[BENJAMIN MARSTON, JR. TO MADAM CABOT.]

Salem, New-England, Decemb^r^ 30th, 1717.

MADAM CABOT,

The Inclosed is a Letter from my Kinsman, your Grandson Marston Cabot,[1] who is very Earnest with me to write to you. He is a very pretty desireable youth, & I hope, if he lives, He may make a fine man. & He is very desirous of being brought up at Colledge, which he cannot attain to without your Assistance (my father not being in a Capacity to do it for him, *By reason of great losses Sustained in his Estate*). He is never like to have one farthing of his father's Estate here in New-England. His uncle Mr. John Cabot has administered upon ye Estate, & Sais it will not pay the debts. And it will take £100 Sterling, or 400 Crowns (Besides his School learning & other helps that he may have here) to bring him up to take his first degree, and then he will be capable of maintaining himself.

Madam, if you see cause to send any thing to him & consigne it to me I will improve it for his best advantage. (He is unwilling y^t^ any thing should be sent to his uncle Cabot for him, Because his Uncle sais his father dyed £160 in his debt.) My Father & Mother give their Service to you. I desire your Answer per ye first opportunity y^t^ we may manage ye child accordingly. He is thirteen years old. His letter is of his own handwriting.

Madame, Je suis votre tres Humb^e^ Serviteur,

BENJAMIN MARSTON, JR.

We learn also from other sources that his losses "had been so many & so great that it was hard work to keep up with them;" some of his vessels were "lost at sea; some taken by French pirates," or privateers; and others, "having lost all their crews, by disease, or otherwise, ye voiages were spiled."

In the year 1719, with the view of "recovering himself from some of these losses," and partly, perhaps, "from indifferent health and growing in-

[1] Marston Cabot was the son of George and Abigail (Marston) Cabot. He was born in Salem in 1704; was graduated at H. C. 1724; minister of 2d Ch. in Killingly, Conn.; died April 8th, 1756, aged 52 years.

firmity," he took passage, with his son, on board of one of his own vessels, "the good Briganteen Essex, Robert Peat, master," bound to Falmouth, Casco Bay, Maine, "to take in some of her Cargo, & thence to Cork, Ireland, and a market." Before going he made his will, the principal items of which, copied from the original, are here given:

In the name of God, Amen. I Benjn Marston of Salem, In ye County of Essex, In New-England, being in health of Body & of p^rfeet mind & memory, Thanks be to God, being bound a Voyage to sea & not knowing how it may please God to Deale with mee In my voyage, Do make & Ordaine This to be my last Will & Testament, hereby Revoking, &c. . . . Commiting my Soule to God that gave itt, and my Body to the Earth after my Deceas, and for my worldly Estate that God hath given me I give and Dispose thare off as followeth. Imp^r I appoint and order that all my just Debts be Satisfyed & paid & discharged. 2ly I give and Bequeath unto my Beloved wife Patience Marston one third parte of all my Reale Estate During her Naterall Life and if she sees Convenient Give her Liberty to sell aney or Every part of her third of my Reale Estate, she giving the Refusall of the same to my son. 3ly. I give and Bequeath unto my Darter Abigail's two children, viz. Marston Cabot, and Abigail Cabot, my Large Silver Tankard and forty shillings in money to each of them, the Reason why I give these children noe more is well known to myself and may be to a grate many More.[1] 4ly I give and Bequeath to my Son Benjamin Marston ten pounds in money, and after my just debts are payed and my wife's thirds are Deducted I give unto my s^d Son two thirds of all the Remaining parts of my Estate Both Reale and personall forever, and I also appoint and order that if my Son sees cause or desire it that he shall have his Sisters parte of the Land, he paying her for the same according to apprizall in money or moneys worth, and that he inherit and possess my Lands. 5ly, I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Elizabeth Marston five pounds in money . . . and the other third parte, &c.

6ly: . . . In case my Son Benjn Marston should die without Lawful Issue . . . Then whole Estate . . . be divided Equally between Wife & dau'r Elizabeth. 7ly. I give unto Mary Marston[2] who has longe dwelt in my house, the sum of five pounds in money or money worth.

Signed, sealed & delivered this first day of May A. D. 1719. In presence of John Nutting, John Swinnerton & John Higginson, Jr. B. Marston. [Seal.]

The "good Briganteen Essex" sailed from Salem on or about the fifth day of June, 1719, and the account of her voyage and its results are given in the following letters of Benjamin Marston, Jr., who seems to have undertaken the whole management of business matters.

[BENJAMIN MARSTON, JR., TO HIS MOTHER, MRS. PATIENCE MARSTON, IN SALEM.]

Falmouth[3] in Casco Bay, On board
Brig^t Essex, June 11th, at 9 at night, 1719.

Honor^d Mother,

Just now arrived here a Marblehead Sloop homeward bound to morrow morning Early. So y^t I have time to give you but a Slender Acc^t of our Affairs,—

[1] Probably, "By reason of great losses Sustained in his Estate." (Letter of B. M. Jr.)

[2] She was probably either his youngest sister, boru March 23d, 1661; or the daughter of his brother John, born August, 1670.

[3] "Falmouth, incorporated in 1718, then included the present city of Portland, and the towns of Falmouth, Cape Elizabeth, Westbrook and Deering. Portland was formerly a port of Falmouth; it was incorporated under its present name in 1786, and received a city charter in 1832."

design to be more large by Mr. Mackie. That time 24 hours We weighed Anchor, We came to again at Casco, being favoured with a prosperous gale. We had no sooner arrived but were Ready to be devoured by Musketoes—were Oblidged all hands (Excepting ye Master) to walk to & fro the Deck the whole night after, they proving and Continuing Extreamely troublesome then and ever since. We have hall'd on shore our Vessell, cleansed Her, threw ye Ballast out, and Yesterday began to Load. Our men work very briskly and I hope We shall be Loaden in a short time. We shall gett our timber for ab^t 8s. pr Ton & firkin Staves between 18 & 20s. pr. M. . . . . Rec'd your letter pr Mackie on Monday night last, & also one from Maj^r Sewall[1] giving an Acc^t of ye Enterprize of ye Pretender & Duke of Ormond, & also of their Happy Overthrow and defeat, for which favour of writing we thank Maj^r Sewall & present due Regards to him & his family together with other friends. And rec^d yours pr. Ashby yesterday morning.[2] Am sorry you should sitt so long on ye house for no adv^e but perhaps to ye prejudice of your health. My fath^rs & my duty to grandmother, and kind love to Betty. With my duty to your Self, begging your prayers for me (who am and shall be Exposed to ye Temptations of a Sinfull world) I subscribe y^r Dutifull Son

Ben^n Marston, Jr.

My father Remembers his Kind love to you. We are in good health, God be praised. The Master presents Service. Our Vessell works incomparably well, will stay and steer like a boat & is Stiff beyond Expectation. We had Some hard gales to try her before we got in.

[FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME; WRITTEN ON THE BACK OF THE FOREGOING LETTER.]

Casco Bay, June 18th, 1719.

Hon^d Mother,

The Marblehead Sloop y^t was to bring ye letter on ye other side took ye Advantage of a fair wind & sailed at midnight, so I mist the Opportunity.

Wee are continued in Good health (God be thanked) and hardly afford time to Eat or to drink by reason of our diligence in Loading. We have gott about fifteen Tons of timber on board, and Stowed away about Twelve thousand Staves. . . . I hope we shall sail in a fortnight or three weeks at farthest. . . . We very narrowly escaped a Ledge of Rocks that lay off Cape Elizabeth, on which if we had Struck we had certainly Lost our Vessel. And we should probably have Struck upon some Rocks going in had not ye wind providentially Chapt about and blew right out of ye Harbour and took us aback as we were going in and Oblidged us to come to an anchor, where we rid two or three hours with a hard gale of wind and a great sea, till a Fishing Sloop y^t was coming in piloted us in upon a free cost. We should not have been so venturesome to go in alone had we not met with a Piscataque Sloop three Leagues off ye Cape who told us that there was no danger going in but what we could plainly see. So I hope the same good hand of Providence that has Hitherto mercifully preserved us will Still do so, and in due time Return us to you in Safety and with a Blessing. . . .

I hope you'l take the next Oppertunity to send me an Acc^t of your Welfare. . . . Give my duty to my Grandmother and hearty Love to Sister Betty, and Respects to all. Begging your prayers I am

Your dutifull Son

B. Marston, Junr.

[FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.]

Cork in Ireland Sept. 9th, 1719.

Hon^d Madam,

These come to Acquaint you That on the Seventh Day of this Instant we Safly arrived in the Harbour of Kingsale (for which God be praised). We met with abundance of Extream bad weather but it has pleased God to preserve us. I was not at all Sick on Our passage. My father and I are in very good Health. We

[1] Major Stephen Sewall was a "notary publique" in Salem. He was a brother of Judge Samuel Sewall."

[2] Mrs. Marston "remained on the house as long as the vessel was in sight," when they sailed from Salem.

design to proceed to Dublin with our Vessell ye first wind, where we are incouraged that we shall come to a good markett. I came to Cork hoping to find Some New-England vessel here, yt So we might Send you a Small Token. But here is none bound to New England, but I send this by a Pensilvania vessell that is here. So you must not Expect I shd write so largly as I would by one of my neighbours fearing it will not come to hand. We hope to be at home Some time in ye latter end of May or first of June next. We met with two dreadfull Storms on ye coast just before we arrived. So bad they were that half ye vessells in Salem would have perished if they had been in our Stead, but ye vessel's proving a wonderfull good Sea boat was ye means of Our preservation, under God. ye Inhabitants of Cork & Kingsale lookt upon us as men Raised from ye Dead, Such was ye violence of ye weather. I pray yt God wd Sanctify ye Mercy to us & Still Go on to preserve us Safe to Our native land. My father is well & Remembers his Kind Love to you & my Sister, his Service to Majr Sewall and all friends. We shall put Our men out of pay and hale up ye Ship this winter. I cannot think of any thing further to write at present, but to present my Duty to you & Love to my Sister and all ye Family and Service to all Friends.

I am Your Dutifull Son

Bennn. Marston.

[FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME, ANNOUNCING THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER.]

Dublin, November 6, 1719.

Hond Madam,

This comes with unwelcome news of the Death of my Father, who was taken with ye Smal-pox and died in about Ten days after Our arrival: the night he died I was taken ill of the same distemper and was dangerously sick, but by God's providence recovered, and am in good health (thro' mercy).

Our Cargo amounts to about 300£ sterling. I have a prospect of passengers, and hope to be at home Sometime in May next.

I am not disfigured nor much markt with the Smal-pox. Conceit nothing at this letter, for ye Gentn ye Bearer has never had it. I wrote to you ye 9th of Septr from Cork by a Philadelphia Ship, hope you have received it. My friends here are, and have been Exceeding Kind to me. I have nothing further to Advise you but to present my duty to you & Love to my Sister and Service to all Friends. I much question whether you receive this Letter before I come to New England.

I am Your Dutifull Son,

Bennn Marston.

To
Mrs. Benjamin Marston
In
Salem, New-England,
pr Capt. Lupton.

This letter did not reach Salem until "the latter end of April," 1720. On the 10th of December previous, however, "A ship from London brought" to Mrs. Marston "the fatal and distressing news of the death of" her "husband and his son's lying dangerously sick of the small-pox." The following letter of condolence and sympathy, written to her at this time, by her brother-in-law, John Leverett,[1] president of Harvard College, will be read with interest.

[FROM JOHN LEVERETT TO HIS SISTER-IN-LAW, "MRS. PATIENCE MARSTON, THESE IN SALEM, PR MR. WM. BRATTLE."]

Cambridge Decemr 24th: 1719.

Dear Sister,

I cd not let this bearer go to Salem without a Line to you at this time,

[1] He married, Nov. 25, 1697, Margaret, dau. of the Rev. John Rogers, and sister of Mrs. Marston.

tho' by reason of Govr Saltonstall's and other Comp^y I can't write as I w^d and intend to you. We rec'd the Sorrowfull Acct^s of your bereavm^t with all the Sorrowfull aggravations that attended it, wch p'duc'd Effects that assur'd us we heartiely Sympathized with you in yor grief's, and were confirm'd in them by the moderation of them in the after acc^t we had of the hopes of your S^on's safety and Recovery. And we are willing to pswade o^r Selves that God has remember'd mercy in his chastizm^t and that the hopes of yor family wil be preserved to you and Return^d in his time. This, as all other afflictions are Order'd by the father of Spirits, who designs his corrections for our Good And has promised not to lay more on his poor weak Creatures than they are able to bear, and he will enable them to bear and make them to See that in the Conclusion all is for good to try (our) patience & our Resignation, and will give his Consolations wch are not Small. We heartiely pray that you may Experience these things and doubt not but you will. Madam Rogers has writ to you, and your Sister w^d too, had she not bin for Some time past Indisposed, and now bin prevented by the Occasion which makes me both Short and abrupt. You may be sure I shall not forget you while I remember myself. I am

Dear Sister

Your affectionate & sympathizing B^ro.

Remember o^r Love to yor Daughter.

& humble Serv't

J. Leverett.

And here may be closed the account of all that can now be found relative to the first Benjamin Marston of this family. He died of the small-pox, in Dublin, Ireland, on or about the 17th of September, 1719, in the 69th year of his age.

His wife Patience (Rogers) Marston, and two children, Benjamin and Elizabeth, survived him.

BENJAMIN MARSTON, THE SECOND.

Benjamin Marston, the second of this name, was the oldest son of *Benjamin* and *Patience (Rogers) Marston*, and was born in Salem on the 24th day of February, A.D. 1697. He entered Harvard College in 1711, and was graduated in 1715.

Little is known at the present time respecting his school or college life but the following memoranda in his handwriting, dated "April, 1712," his freshman year in college, indicate a religious disposition at an early period:

"Memorandum: To believe in Jesus Christ,—a faith in Jesus Christ,—is, according to the whole tenour of the New-Testament, never more nor less than to become His disciples, to be so convinced in our minds that he was sent from God to be the Saviour of the world, as to yield assent to all that he taught and to give up ourselves to be obedient to all that he commanded."

"Memorandum: That I don't neglect publick and private prayer morning and evening, but attend them with the greatest devotion: every day to read some part of ye holy Scriptures: that I keep holy ye Sabbath day: that I avoid all bad company and every thing I see amiss in my best friends carry itt dutifull & respectfully & obligingly to my Superiours & ye family where I live; that I avoid all q^uarrel^s with my companions: that I be carefull in preserving my health."

These may have been the settled thoughts of a youth "brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord," or only a transcript of the instruction and precepts of a pious and loving mother; but there is every reason to believe that during his college life he dutifully observed these wise and prudent principles. He is also said to have been "a young man of diligent and studious habits, & foremost in the classical & mathematical Rooms."[1] On leaving college he at first thought of studying law; but finding that his father had become embarrassed in his affairs, "by reason of great losses Sustained in his Estate," and was also "somewhat infirm in health and required his assistance," he abandoned his own plans and gave "his time and attention entirely to business matters." In the year 1719 he accompanied his father in that voyage to Ireland, in the "good Briganteen Essex," the details of which have already been given in his letters to his mother.

From the following additional letters it appears that, after the death of his father, he remained in Ireland, conducting all the business matters connected with the voyage of the Essex, with a degree of energy and capacity not often found in a young man 22 years of age.

[FROM BENJAMIN MARSTON TO HIS MOTHER, MRS. PATIENCE MARSTON.]

Dublin, Decr. 29, 1719.

Hond Madam,

This is my Third Letter to you Since my arrival in this Kingdom. In my last I acquainted you of the Death of my Father by the Small-pox and that I was well recovered from the same Distemper tho' I have not Escaped without a *Brakett* face. I shall still pursue the Same design that I came upon, and I hope not without success. Several persons have bespoke a passage with me, and to morrow morning I shall sett out on a journey towards London Derry in order to make up my Complement of passengers. Our goods Sold pretty well, tho' it was above fifty pounds Sterlg damage to ye Voyage yt I was Sick at that juncture, besides ye charges of Our Sickness. I discharged most of ye men,—ye Master, his man and James Smith only Remaining on ye Ship. I have paid all ye Bottom Bills. I hope I shall manage all things to our best advantage, and hope to gett home Sometime in May next. I am in very good Health (Thanks be to God) & so are all our people. I have nothing to add by Reason I have wrote to you more particularly by

[1] There is in my possession an autograph manuscript book of more than 200 pages, very neatly written, with diagrams, and title page well executed, as follows:

"Compendium | Phisicae Ex Authoribus Extractu | A Dom. Carolo Mortono | in usum | Eorm: Enitentium Philosophiæ | Occulta Elucidare. | Cantabrigiæ. Nov: Angl: | Transcript'm per B. Marston | MDCCXII."

This Book was given to my brother Benjamin Marston Watson, by the late Hon. John Davis (H. C. 1781), judge of U. S. supreme court for the district of Massachusetts, with the following written on the fly-leaf by him: "Benjamin Marston, a graduate of Harvard College in 1715, transcribed this treatise in 1712, at that time, it is supposed, a usual exercise in that seminary. It was given to me in the year 1793, by my Hon'd father-in-law, William Watson, Esq., who married *Elizabeth*, eldest daughter of Col. Marston. Her mother was *Elizabeth Winslow*, daughter of *Isaac Winslow*, of Marshfield. He was son of *Govr Josiah Winslow*, who married *Penelope Pelham*, daughter of Herbert Pelham, Esqe. J. Davis."

On the other side of the leaf is written by my brother: "This relic of my Great-Grandfather Benj. Marston, was presented to me Sept. 16th, 1843, by my respected Friend and relative, the Hon. John Davis, at my house in Newton. Judge Davis was then in the 83d year of his age, & in the perfect possession of his corporeal & mental faculties; in the full fruition of the rewards of a well-spent, honourable, & virtuous life; & with a prospect of added years to the long lease of life already pass'd."

Judge Davis died in 1847, in the 87th year of his age.

ye way of Philadelphia and Fyall. My kind love to my Sister & ye Family. Service to all friends and Pray you to accept of Duty from Your dutifull Son

BENn: MARSTON.

[Superscription:]
To
Mr. Benjamin Marston,
Merchant,
Salem, in New-England,
Via Barbados.

[FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.]

Dublin, March ye 5th, 1720.

HONd MADAM,

I have wrote to you twice before this of the Death of my Father by ye Smal-pox, & of my Safe recovery from the same distemper (I am much markt by ye Same). Once I wrote by ye way of Fyall, and another time by the way of Barbados, and now this comes by the way of Bristoll. I did expect to have been at Sea by this day but was disappointed in my passengers. I am now ready to Sail from this place to London Derry but yt I wait for about 30 passengers which I expect on board next week, and at Derry I hope to make up the Complement of 100. So that I do not expect to Sail for N. England till ye 10th of April if then. I have paid off the Bill, according to agreemt which, with ye fitting out of ye Ship, & Our great expense here this Six months will very much hinder Our making a good Voyage, tho I hope, with God's blessing, We Shall make a Saving Voyage. I have wrote to London to Mr. Dummer Concerning Vetch & he has writt me that there's no hopes of any mony as yett, by reason his accs are not yett allowed & I am afraid they never will. I have managed all things as prudently & discreetly as possibly I could, & have been & am yet anxiously Concerned for ye good of ye voiage. I bless God I have had my health Ever Since I left you, & have been Extraordinary well ever Since I recovered [from] the Smal-pox: from which distemper I am wonderfully recovered, for I was intirely given Over by all yt Saw me. I hope this will find you with my Sister & all my friends in good health, to all which I desire to be heartily remembered. I wrote to you from Cork by ye way of Philadelphia which I believe you have recd. I have been at Extraordinary pains to procure passengers. I have travailed no less than 250 miles in this Kingdom on yt account. I hope M. B . . . e is well & not married, if She is not Give my humble Service to her. I break off at present hoping yt within this few mo. I shall be so happy (thro God's goodness) as to Rejoice with you in my native Land & be able to give you an Exact acco of all my proceedings, to which time I must referr you at present. So recommending you to ye protection of Heaven I begg your earnest prayers for Your Dutifull Son,

I had but short warning of this Oppertunity.

BENa MARSTON.

In the mean time Mrs. Marston had received her son's letter of Nov. 6, 1719, informing her that he had recovered from his sickness, and was in good health; and President Leverett congratulates her as follows:

Cambridge, Apl 20th, 1720.

DEAR SISTER,

Tho I am obliged to detain this bearer for it, I cannot but do so, to tell you that as We sympathized with you in the depths of yr fears and sorrows, so we do heartiely & joicy in the light that has sprung up out of the late darkness. And we heartiely congratulate you, and thank God for the good News you have not only of, but from your Son. God has spared his Life, and restored his health, as we always hop'd he wd (for we cd not mourn with you for him as those without hope) for your greater Comfort. And we trust in a little time you will recc him, to the compleatmt of your Satisfaction, and all our thanks-givings wth you. I may not enlarge now and onely pray God to Sanctify both afflictions and mercys to us and bring us all under the promise that all things shal work together for our best good.

With mine & my Wife's, Madam Rogers, and Our Childrens best regards in our Order to yor Self, & Cozen Betty, I subscribe, Dear Sister,

Yo^r most affectionate Br^o & most humble serv^t,

[Superscription :] J. Leverett.

To

Mr^s. Patience Marston,

These, in Salem.

The Essex left Dublin on the 16th of June, 1720; but as her "homeward voyage proved a long and tedious one," her non-arrival at the time expected caused great anxiety in the minds of Mrs. Marston and her friends. President Leverett, who was then in great affliction, on account of the recent death of his wife,[1] wrote to his sister-in-law as follows:

Cambridge, July 23^d, 1720.

Dear Sister Marston,

Mr. Denison went away this morning in Such an hurry I had not time to write by him, but your neighbour Capt^in Gardner gives me the opportunity to tell you that I am heartiely Sorry your hopes of your Son's Arrival are So long delay'd. This is for the tryal of your faith, and that patience may have its p'fect work in you. And I have no doubt, but God in his time, wch is always the best time, will give an answer to your prayers, and a greater & more ample joy in your receiving him. . . .

I ask your remembrance in your pray^rs which I know are fer^vt ones and will be Effectual. And may the God of all consolations afford Suitable ones for us in our desolate condition.

I am, with gr^t affection, dear Sister, Your afflicted, but I hope not utterly forsaken Brother & most humble Servt. J. Leverett.

In the latter part of July it was reported in Salem that "the Brig^e Essex was cast away and all on board were drowned." On the third of August, however, this report was contradicted, and President Leverett writes as follows to Mrs. Marston:

Cambridge, Augt 5th, 1720.

Dear Sister,

Yesterday morning Maj^r Sewal Sent me the Confirmation of the Sorrowfull News wch I hoped w^d never have bin comunicated to you because I found it such a Surcharge upon my own Afflictions that are redoubled by your having Such an Interest in them. I mourned with you, and pray'd for the Divine Supports for you under so terrible a Shock.—In the afternoon, towards Evening, I rec'd a new message from Maj^r Sewal, a rep'al of the former, you know how you rec^d the revival of our Dear Kinsman, which without doubt was as the widow in the Gospel rec^d her raised Son from the hands of our Great Redeemer, and knowing that, You will believe I had my p^t and was sensible of the wonderfull benignity of God in ordering the better news to loyter no longer then it did. I thank'd God upon the Rec^t for you and for myself, and pray'd instruction by the mysterious Lessons that certainly must be couched in the Order of the Late Intelligences we have had. God Almighty Support you and me in our Sorrows in our Joys, In our Joys in our Sorrows. For dear Sister I will endeaver to Rejoice with you in your Joys, notwithst^dg my own wounds are yet open & like to be so. And pray that the Compensating Joys you have, and do, with patience & faith wait for, may be hasten'd & compleated.

I am Dear Sister, Your most affectionate

& humble Servt. J. Leverett.

[1] Margaret, 2d daughter of the Rev. John Rogers, president of Harvard College, born Feb. 18, 1664; married, Nov. 25, 1697, her second husband, President John Leverett; and died June 7, 1720.

On the 22d of August, 1720, the Essex reached Salem, "after a long and stormy passage of 67 days, in which they encountered many disasters." Previous to her arrival, there had been rumors of her having been taken by pirates, to which, probably, President Leverett alludes in the following letter congratulating Mrs. Marston on the return of her son, in health and safety.

Cambr. Ang^t 24th, 1720.

Dear Sister Marston,

I have bin in pain for yor Son ever since I had the acc^t of Captn. Cary's disaster, and it w^d have added to my rejoicing had your Son escaped those enormous Creatures.[1] However, I can't suffer his misfortune to diminish my hearty acknowledgm^t of the Divine favour in bring^g the dear Youth to you alive and in health, after all the fears and Concerns We have had about him: nor shall any thing lessen my rejoicing with you upon that head. God has reserv'd him for your Comfort and will make him so to be in an ample manner I doubt not. I heartyly congratulate you upon this good Omen of it. And pray make my Compliments to your Son and daughter. May God make all things contribute to O^r Eternall good which is our onely good. And our hope they shall do so is founded on a Divine promise which wil never fail. I am, Dear Sister,

Your sincerely affectionate,

Tho solitary Brother & humble serv^t.

J. Leverett.

In connection with the return of young Marston, we give the following letter which he brought with him from Mrs. Anne Young,[2] of Dublin, Ireland, to Mrs. Patience Marston, and her touching and excellent reply.

March 21, 1720.

Dr. Madam,

I am sorry our correspondance should begin with so melancholy a subject as that of condoling the loss of your good husband, whom it pleased providence to remove from hence so soon after his arivall. I had not the oppertunity of being well acquainted or enjoying that sosiety with him I promised my selfe satisfaction in, during his stay in this countrey. Doubtless your loss is very great, and attended with many afflicting circumstances, but I do not question but God has endowed you with so much Christian patience, as to be willing to submit to this sevear triall since it is his good pleasure to exersise you with it.

You will more willingly do it if you consider that in the midst of judgment, God was graciously pleased to remember mercy, and spared him, who next your Spouse, I believe was most dear to you, I mean your Son, who in appearance was in a dangerous condition by the same distemper. I do not question but as far as in his power, he will make up his father's loss and be a comfort to you.

The want of his father's assistance and his own sickness was a considerable loss and involved him in many difficulties and troubles which (by) his diligence and good management he has I hope, for the most part over come, and indeed his conduct has bin beyond what could be expected of one of his years and experience in a strange place. I do not question but God will bless his honest endeavors and crown them with success. I shall longe to hear of my cosens safe arivall wth you. he has promised me he will miss no oppertunity of writing to me. our prayers shall not be wanting in his behalf, that God would direct, preserve and keep him from all dangers in this long voiage, and restore him to your comfort. which is all with due respect from your kinswoman and sarvant

Anne Young.

[1] "1720. On the outward passage of the Essex one of her men, a joiner, Daniel Starr of Boston, was taken out by a Pirate and carried away."—*Felt's Annals*, vol. ii. p. 636.

[2] Mrs. Anne Young was a cousin of Madam Rogers, the widow of President Rogers, and mother of Mrs. Patience Marston.

The following is the reply of Mrs. Marston to Madam Anne Young.

Salem, New England, Feb. 18, 1720–1721.

Dear Madam,

I was favored with yours by my Son whom I received as one from the dead. he arived here Augt 22, 1720, after I had spent many months in the sharpest Sorrows that ever my Soul felt. On December ye 10th before my Sons arrival, a ship from London brought me that fatal and distressing news of ye Death of my husband and his son's lying dangerously Sick of ye Small Pox, & I knew not whether he was numbered among ye living or ye Dead, till ye latter end of Aprill I received a letter from him which he wrote just after his recovery. On ye latter end of May my Sister Leverett was seized with a Feaver: the thought of death was not terrible to her, but she chearfully resigned up her soul to God that gave it, and died June 7th, universally lamented. I may without vanity Say she has left few that can equal her. In ye latter end of July it was firmly reported that ye brigantine my Son was in was Cast away & every Soul drowned. Thus it pleased ye holy & righteous God to bring one wave over another, till my Soul was almost drowned in sorrow.

I would sing of mercy as well as judgement, & acknowledge ye goodness of God in upholding me in my distresses, in delivering my Son from so many Deaths, for favour shown him in a Strange land, and in returning him to me again.

And now dear Madam I know not how to express gratitude for ye extraordinary kindness & favour you showed my dear husband in his life-time, & his poor surviving child.

I tender my most hearty thanks and best regards to you, Mr. Young, and ye rest of your dear family, to whom I wish ye best of blessings. I should be glad if it lay in ye power of me or mine to be any ways Serviceable, if it does pray madam Command. My Good mother is yet living & in good health, & Bears her age wonderfully. She knows nothing of this Oppertunity. When I saw her last she desired me to send due regards to yourself and family. With repeated thanks, begging y^r prayers for me & mine I am your most obliged kinswoman and, madam, your humble serv^t.

Patience Marston.

After rendering his accounts of the voyage of the Essex, which appears to have been more profitable than was expected, Mr. Marston applied himself to the settlement of his father's estate, of which he and his mother had been appointed administrators; and we find that in a few years he had succeeded "in paying off all just dues and demands," and recovering much of the property which had been sold or mortgaged previous to his father's death, "with a fair remainder for the heirs." At the same time he engaged in business as a merchant in Salem, and gained a reputation among his fellow townsmen, as a "man of honourable motives, and strict integrity of character." We learn also from the town records that he "was chosen representative to the general court in the years 1727–28–29." He was "high sheriff of Essex till the year 1737," and was also "Justice of General Session, & Com^n Pleas Courts."

In the year 1725 he married Mehitable Gibbs, daughter of the Rev. Henry Gibbs, of Watertown, Mass. She was born Jan. 8, 1706. She died Aug. 21, 1727, without issue. The inscription on her grave-stone, in the old burying-ground, in Salem, is as follows:

"Here lyes Interred ye Body of Mrs. Mehetable Marston, wife to Benjamin Marston, Esq. and Danr. to ye late Reva Mr. Henry Gibbs, of Watertown, who departed this life August ye 21st 1727, in ye 22d year of her age."

On the 20th of November, 1729, Mr. Marston married (second) Elizabeth Winslow, daughter of the Hon Isaac[1] and Sarah (Wensley) Winslow, of Marshfield. She was born Dec. 13, 1707.

A few years after his second marriage, he "caused to be built, for his own use, a handsome brick house, which was thought well of." It is thus briefly noticed in Col. Pickman's "account of houses in Salem;"[2] "The next Brick House (was) by Benjamin Marston, Esq^e, graduated in 1715, and High Sheriff of Essex. . . . On this spot stood a brick house built by Col^l. Marston's father, but it stood no great while, the bricks being bad."

On the 22d of May, 1731, his mother, Mrs. Patience Marston, died in Salem, aged 55 years.

Mrs. Marston was evidently a woman of superior mind and character. One of her later descendants thus speaks of her: "Personally of course I knew nothing about her; but this I know, that she came of a good family, and was no discredit to her relations, many of whom were distinguished in the early history of the colony. It may be believed that she was a dutiful daughter, a tender and affectionate wife, a loving mother, and an exemplary christian woman."

The inscription on her grave-stone is as follows:

"Here lyes Interred the body of Mrs. Patience Marston, Relict of Mr. Benjamin Marston, late of Salem, merchant, Dec^d. She departed this life the 22^d day of May, 1731, aged 55 years and 9 days."

Col. Marston continued to reside in Salem for some years, diligently engaged in business, attending to the duties of his several offices, and occasionally visiting his friends and relations in Boston, Marshfield and Plymouth.

The following letter was written during the prevalence of an epidemical influenza, in Salem, which seems also to have affected Boston, and other towns in New-England.

[BENJAMIN MARSTON TO HIS SISTER ELIZABETH, IN BOSTON.]

Salem, Septr 25th, 1732.

DEAR BETTY,

I was in such haste to gett out of Town when I saw you at Boston that I forgot to give you some mony that Mr. Bridgham told me you wanted. Inclosed is forty shillings the Sum he told me you desired.

[1] Elizabeth Winslow's father, Isaac Winslow, born 1678, was the son of Josiah Winslow and Penelope Pelham, daughter of Herbert Pelham, Esq. ii. Josiah Winslow, b. 1629, was the son of Edward Winslow, the May-Flower Pilgrim, and Susannah White. iii. Edward Winslow, the May-Flower Pilgrim and first governor of Plymouth Colony, b. Oct. 19, 1595, was the son of Edward and Magdalen Winslow, of Droitwitch, Worcestershire, England.

For descendants of Benjamin Marston and Elizabeth Winslow, see APPENDIX.

[2] Essex Inst. Coll. vol. vi. p. 107.—The editor in 1864 has the following note. "This building has been very much altered, and the shops in front have been added to it. It is now occupied by Haskell & Longee, cabinet makers, and others. [1872. Occupied by the same to-day. G. D. P.] Benj. Crombie converted it into a tavern, and it was for many years a noted and reputable one kept by him and others."

Never did I know such a time of Sickness and indisposition as is here. I believe I may modestly say that more than a Thousand people have been seized here with violent Colds in two or three days time, besides those that are taken with the flux. I was seized with the Cold very violently before I got home. I never saw such a Sabbath as Yesterday in my life, so many whole familys detained at home, by reason of sickness. Mr. Fisk,[1] Mr. Prescot & Mr. Clark, were all sick & had no meetings. Mr. Jennison was forced to cut short his afternoon Service, thro indisposition.

My wife and the Children are well. We send our hearty Love to you & Service to Mr. Wiswall,[2] & his Wife & all friends.

I am Yr affectionate Brother,

Benn Marston.

I pray you to get a Ring[3] from Boyers, and send it this week if you can by some safe hand, if not, keep it till we come to Boston.

The following, addressed to his wife, is directed on the outside: "To | Mrs. Elizabeth Marston | In | Marshfield." He had left her there the day before, on a visit to her parents.

My Dear,

This comes with ye tidings of our Safe Arrival at Boston between seven and eight at night, after a cold and tedious journey. I have seen Capn Barnard who Came from Salem yesterday, and brings word that our family there is Well. My Sister is here waiting with me for wind and weather, and I believe Mr Fairfax may get a conveyance with Mr. Wolcott. I am now at Mr. Gee's,[4] and from what I can perceive at present, I know of no Disadvantage it will be for you to Come home at ye time you first proposed, and I do assure you that your absence so Long will not be a Little burdensome to me. My Duty to Father and Mother, Love to Beny and Serv'e to Mr's Fairfax and all friends, and most tender Love to yr Self. If Mr. Fairfax's[5] Letter should be Longer than mine, dont you impute it to a greater degree of affection and Concern for his Wife, but to his greater Leasure and Opportunity, for I now use Industry to gain the time to write what is above, and to subscribe,

Dear Child, Your most tender affectionate
husband and faithful friend,

Boston [Illegible] 10, 1733. Benn Marston.

[Illegible] this letter.

It appears from the town records that in the year "1726, Nov. 15th, Benjamin Marston of Salem, Gentn bought from Jno Knowlton, Manchester, for £600, his farm of 60 acres, 2 dwelling-houses, &c, on the great neck in s'd town at Gales point, bounded on land of Rev. Amos Cheever, Manr &c."

[1] "Samuel Fisk, H. C. 1708. Minstr. of First Congregational Church.—Benjamin Prescot, Minr. of Middle Precinct C'h.—Peter Clark, Min'r of Village C'h.—Wm. Jennison, H. C. 1724, Min'r of East C'h."—*Felt's Annals of Salem.*

[2] Elizabeth, daughter of Dr. Daniel, and Sarah (Appleton) Rogers, married Peleg Wiswall, Esq., of Boston; he was graduated at H. C. 1702, and died at Boston Sept. 2, 1767. She was a cousin of Benjamin Marston's mother.

[3] This was a "memorial ring," ordered to be made after the death of his mother. It is now in my possession, and is a handsome gold and black enamel, with grey hair under a glass, and an inscription on the outside in Roman letters:

P. Marston, Ob. 22 May, 1731. Æ. 55.

[4] The Rev. Joshua Gee, of Boston, a colleague in the ministry with the Rev. Dr. Cotton Mather, married Sarah Rogers, daughter of the Rev. Nathaniel R., of Portsmouth, N. H. She died 1730, aged 29."—Rev. J. L. Sibley.

[5] "William Fairfax continued collector of customs in Salem, 1733." "In 1734, June 3d, he moved to Virginia, where he was a patron of George Washington."—*Felt's Annals*, vol. ii. p. 380.

"March 13, 1733. Benjn Marston Esq^{e} Salem, bo't of Revd Amos Cheever Man^{chr} for £575. 60 acres upland & s. m. on Pickworth's point."

"June 14, 1734. Benjn Marston, Salem, High Sheriff, bo^{t} of Saml Griffin, Gloucester, a dwelling-house in Glouc^{r} formerly Jethro Wheelers for £27.13.2."

"March 27, 1736. *Ben^{n} M. dec^{d}*—Salem, on the 18th June, 1718, sold for £250, to Jno Brown Esq^{e} the Great and Little Misery cont^{g} 70 or 80 acres, subject to condition that the same be p^{d} with interest by June 5, 1722. The conditions not being complied with, & s'd Benjn M. & Jno. Brown & Saml Brown Ex^{r} of Jno. being all dec'd, the same is sold by the heirs of sd. Jno. Brown to *Benjamin*, only son of sd Benjn dec'd, for £516.13.9."

In the year 1740, Col. Marston sold his "Brick house in Salem to Samuel Gardner," and removed to Manchester, where, by "purchases made, from time to time, as he found it convenient to buy," he had acquired a large and valuable property, known for a long time afterward as the "Marston farm."[1] There he passed the rest of his days, attending principally to agricultural pursuits and the cultivation of his estate; but also "finding time to spend among his books; fond of literary and religious conversation; with a place at his table for any friend who would favor him with a visit; and at least a cup of cold water, and perhaps something more, for any poor brother who solicited his charity."

And there, "attended by his wife, and all his children, and other relations," he died, on the 22d day of May, 1754, aged 57 years, 2 months and 28 days. His wife, Elizabeth Winslow, survived him seven years, and died in Salem, Sept. 20, 1761, aged 53 years, 9 months and 7 days. Their children were:

i. Benjamin, b. Sept. 20; m. *Sarah Sweet*, of Marblehead, Nov. 13, 1755; d. Aug. 10, 1792.
ii. Elizabeth, b. March 4, 1732; m. *William Watson*, of Plymouth, 1756.
iii. Patience, b. Jan. 2, 1733; m. *Elkanah Watson*, of Plymouth, Oct. 1751; d. April 20, 1767.
iv. Sarah, b. March 19, 1735; d. unmarried, 1770.
v. John, b. 1740; d. April 22, 1761.
vi. Lucia, b. 1747; m. *John Watson*, of Plymouth, 1769; d. 1793.
vii. Winslow, b. 1749; d. Sept. 6, 1755.

The following is a copy of his will, taken from the certified copy furnished by the register to his son:

In the name of God, Amen. I Benjamin Marston of Manchester in the County of Essex, Esqr. being sick and in a low Estate of Health as to my body, but thanks be to God of a disposing mind & memory, And calling to mind the frailty & uncertainty of my Life Do make and Ordain this my Last Will and Testament.

Imprimis. Comiting my Soul to God, and my body to the dust to be buried, at the discretion of my Executors Trusting to it's Resurrection to a Glorious Immortality, thro: the Merrits of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I Will that all my Just debts and Funeral Charges be paid by my Executors hereafter named.

[1] This farm was owned, in 1839, by Major Burley Smith.

Item. I give unto my beloved Wife Elizabeth One sixth part of the Rents or Income of the Island called the Misery during her life. And the third part of ye Income of the Farm at Manchester and of ye Stock and Utensils thereon, during the time she lives thereon or Improves it. I also give her the Service of my Negro Man Isaac during her Life. And after her death I give him to that Child of mine he shall chuse to live with, such child paying his Brethren & Sisters Each a share equal of his or her own of what the s^d Negro shall then be thought worth.

Item. I give to my Son Benjamin Ten pounds Lawful money.

Item. I give unto Each of my other Children, namely, Elizabeth, Patience, Sarah, John, Lucy & Winslow—Five pounds lawful money to be paid by my Executors in Convenient time after my decease.

Item. I Will that after ye Death of my sd Wife the sd sixth part of ye profits & Rents of ye s'd Island shall be vested in the Committee for Indian affairs for the propagating the Gospel among the Indians. by them to be improved & applied to that purpose & no other Forever.[1]

Item All ye remainder of my Estate both Real personal & mixt I give to my Children to be divided among them according to ye Laws of this Province for ye distribution of ye Estates of Intestates In ye following manner—vidt. To my Son Benjamin a Double Share or one fourth part thereof. To Eliz^h Patience. Sarah. John. Lucy & Winslow. Each one Eighth part thereof, To hold to them their heirs & assigns forever.

Item I hereby constitute & ordain my well beloved Wife Eliz^h & my Son Benjamin ye Executors of this my Last Will and Testament. And I hereby give them and ye Survivor of them full power to sell ye whole or part of my Real Estate as well as personal if they think fit. the Interest or Income of one third part of the money that shall arise upon such sale to be for ye use of my sd Wife during her life. And ye other two third parts of such Moneys as shall so arise shall be distributed among my sd Children according to the manner and proportion aforesaid, And after my sd. Wifes Death the remaining third part shall also be distributed among them in the same manner.

Finally I hereby declare this to be my Last Will and Testament And in Witness thereof hereunto set my hand & seal This Twenty third Day of April Anno Domini One Thousand seven hundred & Fifty four.

BENJAMIN MARSTON. [Seal.]

Signed seal'd & Declared by ye s'd Benjn Marston ye Testator to be his last Will & Testament in presence of us Jeremiah Allen. Knot Martain. Thos Martain. Knot Martain Jr.

A Codicil was made, May 4, 1754, providing for "ye Distribution of ye Estate of any of the children who sh'd die without Issue,"—signed in presence of Nathl Rogers, Saml Allen, & Jerem^h Allen.

This will was proved "before The Hon^e Thos Berry Esq^e Judge of Probate of Wills &c, Essex co Salem, July 11th 1754." & signed

DAN^l. APPLETON Reg^r THO^s BERRY, Judge &c.

A true Copy of Record. DAN^l APPLETON, Reg^r.

A gravestone erected to his memory, in the Manchester burying-ground, bears the following inscription, dictated by himself:

"Col^l. Benjamin Marston lies here,
Who died May 23^d 1754 being 57 years old.
Art thou curious, Reader, to know
What sort of a Man he was?
Wait till the Day of Final Retribution,
And then thou mayest be satisfied."

[1] "Mr. Marston, at his decease, in 1754, left part of the income from the islands to a proposed Society in New-England for Propagating the Gospel among Indians. But, in a few years afterward, the king refused, from political motives, to sanction the act for this association."—*Felt's Annals*, vol. i. p. 240.

The following inscription is taken from the gravestone of his wife, in the Salem burying-ground:

"Here lye reposited in hope of a Resurrection to an Immortal life, the Remains of Madam Elizabeth Marston, the Wife of the hon'b^le^ Benjamin Marston Esq. once of this place, and daughter of the hon'b^le^ Isaac Winslow, Esq. of Marshfield. She died September 20th. 1761, in her 53d year."

In the same burying-ground are the following:

"Here lies ye Body of Winslow Marston, son of Col^nl^. Benjamin Marston Esq. and Mrs. Elizabeth his Wife. Died Sept. ye 6th, 1755, aged 6 years."

"In memory of John Marston the second son of Benjn Marston Esq. and Mrs. Elizabeth Marston. He died April 22d in his 21st year and is here buried."

BENJAMIN MARSTON, THE THIRD.

Benjamin Marston, the third of this name and family, was the oldest son of the last mentioned Benjamin and Elizabeth (*Winslow*) Marston, and was born in Salem, September 30, 1730. He was graduated at Harvard College in 1749. No accounts of his early life have been preserved, but it seems probable, from some expressions in his later letters, that after he left college he visited some of the other British colonies in this country, and afterward travelled in Europe. At his father's death, in 1754, he and his mother were appointed executors of the will, and on the 11th of July, in the same year, "the said will was proved, approved & allowed, & ye said executors accepted that trust." It is recorded in the Essex Registry that, on "the 12th of Dec^r^, 1754, Benjamin Marston & Elizabeth, widow of Benjamin Marston of Manchester, executors of s^d^ Benjn. bo't from Jno & Mary Foster of Salem 170 acres of land in Manchester, known as the Marston Farm," which had been sold to Foster to enable them to effect a legal division of the estate among the heirs.

The town-records of Marblehead show that Benjamin Marston and Sarah Sweet were married there Nov. 13, 1755. She was the "daughter of Joseph, & Hannah Sweet, & was bap^d^ 1st c'h, M'b'lh'd, Feby 23^d^ 1734–5." Joseph Sweet, her father, made his will March 20, 1744–5, proved April 15 following,—in which he mentions his (2d) "wife Hannah" (his first wife was named Martha); sons *Joseph* and *Samuel;* daughters *Ruth*, wife of Robert Hooper; *Hannah*, wife of Joseph Lemmon; *Martha*, *Sarah*, & *Rebecca*. After his decease, his widow Hannah married, prior to 1748, Samuel Lee, Esq., who, says the record, was a very wealthy merchant, and

"owned many warehouses." He died July 6, 1753. His son Jeremiah,[1] by his first wife, Mary Tarrin, married Martha, daughter of Joseph Sweet, a sister of Mrs. Benj. Marston, June 25, 1745.

After his marriage Benjamin Marston "settled down" in Marblehead, where, for many years, he carried on a large and successful business as a merchant. From the "schedule of his property" which he sent to my father, and from other papers, it appears that, when he left this country in 1775, he owned a "store in King Street," and other stores and warehouses; and jointly with his "partners,"—who I suppose were his brothers-in-law, Robert Hooper and Jeremiah Lee,—"several large ships," one of which was called "the Salisbury," "Capt. Jno. Bartlett," and was "in the London trade;" besides other vessels. He also owned "a pleasant and commodious dwelling-house, and much real estate and other property, in Marblehead, and elsewhere." He also had a large and well selected library, partly inherited from his father, and partly purchased for him in London. A few of his books are now in my possession, and some of them, especially the Latin and Greek authors, contain marginal and fly-leaf annotations, evincing accurate and critical scholarship. Here he continued to live for twenty years, actively engaged in business, occasionally "getting a visit from his Plymouth and Boston friends," and enjoying the good things which God had given him, in a sober, useful, and religious manner. According to the accounts of his relatives and connections, who have themselves long since passed away, he was considered by his friends and neighbors as "a man of pure life, and great integrity of character, active in business, energetic in public matters, hospitable and benevolent in private;" "a great reader and scholar, and fond of literary pursuits; always occupying one of the most respectable positions in society, and greatly esteemed by all who knew him."

From the town-records of Marblehead we gather the following: "Ben-

[1] Extract from the records of my late brother Benjamin Marston Watson: "Colonel Jeremiah Lee, the third Son of my Great-Grand-Father, Samuel Lee, was settled at Marblehead as a merchant, and was engaged in a most extensive commercial business at the period of the Revolution; probably at that time more extensive than that of any other merchant in the then British colonies. My father, Marston Watson, served his mercantile apprenticeship with him at Marblehead, which was unfinished at the time of Col. Lee's death, which occurred in 1775. He was a member of the colonial congress of Massachusetts, which was in session at Watertown, when, upon an alarm being given of the approach of the British forces, the Congress dispersed; and he, having concealed himself in a swamp, thereby took cold, which was the cause of his death. The following notice of his death is extracted from the *South Carolina Gazette* of June 20, 1775:—'Cambridge, Massachusetts Bay, May 18. On Wednesday morning, 10th instant, died at Newton, near Newbury, Jeremiah Lee, Esq., of Marblehead, a member of the Committee of Safety, one of the most eminent merchants on the Continent, and a distinguished and resolute asserter and defender of the liberties of his country. We hear he has left the Province a legacy of £2000 sterling.' Col. Jeremiah Lee built that large and elegant mansion house, now owned by the Marblehead Bank, which was his place of residence at the time of his death. At that period, the edifice had just been completed, and was considered the most elegant and expensively finished house in the British colonies, and was reported to have cost £10,000 sterling."

jamin Marston was chosen selectman and overseer of the poor" thirteen times in the fifteen years, 1759 to 1773 inclusive; "assessor in 1760:" "fire-ward," twelve times in fourteen years; and "moderator of town meetings," fourteen times in the eight years between 1765 and 1774. "March 26th, 1759," he was one of 'a com̄ee to take under consideration ye affair of a workhouse, & make estimate of ye charge of erecting such workhe, & ye advantages & disadvantages that may arise to ye town thereby," &c. In 1765, he was one of a "com̄e to examine into ye state of ye several schools in M'bleh'd: also to consider what alterations are proper to be made with respect to ye market in ye lower part of the town-house:—also to examine and straighten the lines of several estates, and to examine into ye titles of ye same."

On the 13th of February, 1768, an act of the parliament imposing duties on certain articles imported into the colonies having received the royal assent; the house of representatives of Massachusetts protested against the course of the parliament in exacting duties from the king's American subjects, "with the sole and express purpose of raising a revenue;" and addressed a circular letter to the other provincial assemblies, inviting their concurrence in measures of relief from the late obnoxious legislation of the parliament.[1] On the 21st of June, Governor Bernard informed the house that he was instructed to require them "to rescind the resolution which gave birth to the circular letter, and to declare their disapprobation of and dissent to that rash and hasty proceeding." On the 30th the house informed him "that they had voted not to rescind, and that on a division on the question there were *ninety-two nays*, and seventeen yeas,"—numbers which afterward were much repeated. The majority[2] were lauded through the country and toasted as "the glorious ninety-two." At a town meeting in Marblehead, "1768, Mr. Benjamin Marston was chosen one of a Com̄ee to frame a letter of thanks to the ninety-two members of the house of repres^s for their steady resolution in maintaining the rights and privileges of the government, and resisting the aggressions of the mother country."

In the year 1769, many of the towns in Massachusetts "instructed their representatives to act for the repeal of the English tax law, and a renewal of harmony with the mother country."[3] At the May town meeting of that year, in Marblehead,[4] "Benjamin Marston was chosen one of a Com̄ee to draw up" instructions "for their newly elected representative (Joshua Orne), to do all in his power to help heal the unhappy breach with England, and to have matters once more replaced upon their ancient footing,

[1] Palfrey's Compend. History of New-England.
[2] Felt's Annals.
[3] Felt's Annals, vol. ii. p. 540.
[4] Town-Records.

and avoid every measure which may tend to weaken that union which at present subsists between the several British colonies in America."

After this time, however, when the troubles which preceded our American revolution began to increase, the confidence of his fellow-townsmen in Mr. Marston appears to have been withheld. They still chose him the moderator[1] of all their town-meetings, but we do not find that he was again appointed on any important committee. He was known to be "an uncompromising adherent to the lawful government of the British colonies in this country;" but, as he violated no agreements, and never attempted to counteract the plans of the opposite party, though frequently and openly expressing his disapprobation of their violent proceedings, he was for some time unmolested. At an early period, however, as if apprehensive of future difficulties, he began "to sell off some of his property": "to Jos^h Foster & wife Elizabeth, a house and land, bounded on land of new meeting-house;" also a parcel of land near "new m^g house." "Feb. 23, 1771. To Humphry Devereaux, a wall-pew No. 25 in the new m^g house, the 6th pew, right hand of ye pulpit." And "Jany 19th, 1774, sold to Richard James a dwelling house and land formerly belonging to Nicholas Waltham dec'd, which house & land were set off to ye sd Benjamin & Sarah Marston, in the division of the undivided real estate of late Jos. Sweet, Esq. dec'd, in a partition made by ye sd heirs of ye sd Joseph, &c."[2]

In the year 1774, when Governor Hutchinson was about to sail for England, "more than 200 merchants,[3] lawyers, and other citizens of Boston, Salem and Marblehead sent him addresses, approving his administration, and desiring his prosperity. These expressions gave great offence to most of the people, and those who uttered them were called *addressers*." Benjamin Marston was one of the "addressers," and thus incurred the displeasure of many of the towns-people. After that he was regarded with suspicion, and "sometimes harshly treated by the most noisy and turbulent among them." In the year 1775, his "house was visited by a Marblehead committee, who, without any legal authority, entered his doors, broke open his desks, embezzled his money and notes, and carried off his books and accounts." He made his escape from the town with difficulty, and probably remained for some time concealed among his friends in the neighborhood of Boston. A letter from "the Hon^e. W^m. Brown, in Boston, to Judge Saml Curwen," a brother-loyalist, dated Jan. 8, 1776, contains the following:[4]—"About 2 months ago,"—that is, in the early part of November, 1775,—"Mr. Marston of Marblehead came here, by night, from Col. Fowle's

[1] He was chosen "moderator of town meetings," twice in 1771; and three times in 1773; and "selectman" in all those years.—*Town-Records.*
[2] Essex co. Deeds.
[3] Felt's Annals, vol. ii. p. 551.
[4] Curwen's Journal.

farm. He knows nothing about Salem. His wife died last summer."—It is also known that in 1776 he went to St. John, New-Brunswick; and from a letter to his sister, Mrs. Lucia Watson, it appears he was in Windsor, Nova Scotia, in the same year. He thence went to Halifax, and there, according to a statement in the *American Quarterly Register*,[1] "engaging in trade, and venturing to sea, he was taken prisoner, and carried into his native state, Plymouth *(sic)*, and there continued until exchanged." What authority there may be for this statement does not appear; but in one of his letters to his nephew, Marston Watson, he mentions "having sent goods to Mirimichi, for sale;" another to his niece Elizabeth Watson is dated, "Boston, Feby. 16th, 1777, written while in duress." From all that can now be ascertained respecting him, it seems most probable that he remained "in duress, in Boston," until he was exchanged, and then went to Halifax. "He returned to Boston in 1787, in the spring of which year he visited his friends in Plymouth for the last time, and soon after embarked for London."

By the kindness of my esteemed kinswomen, the daughters of George Watson, Esq., I am permitted to publish the four following letters, copied from his records.[2]

[BENJ^{n} MARSTON TO HIS SISTER MRS. LUCIA WATSON.]

"Windsor, Nova Scotia, May, 1776.

"To you, my Lucia, with my picture in miniature.

"Speed, little picture, quickly hence, and go,
A Brother's likeness to his Sister show;
Full to her view disclose his features all,
And tell her thus appears th' original.
Health and content enlivening his face,
Show that within his breast dwells balmy peace;
And tho' now exiled from his native land,
Driven from his home by Faction's cruel hand,
He still looks down on fickle fortune's power,
Nor lets her frowns his equal temper sour.
Still pleased with life, chearful he spends each day,
Enjoys each Heaven-sent blessing in his way.
He still preserves a sympathizing heart,
And to his neighbor's joy can help his part;
For man distressed can shed a pitying tear,
And what he can't prevent can help to bear.
Life's ocean thus he calmly passes o'er,
Nor fears the landing on the other shore."

* * * * * *

"Accept, dear Lucia, this rough piece,
To amuse you 't'is designed;
The picture shows your Brother's face,
This fragment shows his mind.[3]

B. MARSTON."

[1] Vol. xiv. p. 167.

[2] "Family Book" of George Watson, Esq., late of Roxbury, Mass. He was a son of John and Lucia (Marston) Watson.

[3] The miniature which accompanied this letter is now in the possession of my respected friend and kinsman Benjamin Marston Watson, Esq., of Plymouth, Mass.

[BENJ^n MARSTON TO HIS NIECE ELIZA^h WATSON.[1]]

"Boston, Feby. 16, 1777.
Written while in duress.

"MY DEAR NIECE,

I have rec^d your very kind letter, wch gave me much real pleasure. Shall I any longer reckon *that* a misfortune wch has bro't me to be acquainted wth so good a girl? No, I will not,—for, unless what has happened to me, *had* happened, I never should have been in a situation to have experienced your kindness, your friendship, & never perhaps should have known half your worth.

"In the language of men, such accidents as have befalen me are called *misfortunes*. But it depends upon ourselves, my dear Eliza, whether they shall be evils or not; for if we take occasion from any adverse situation to practice *Patience*, *Fortitude*, & a *Resignation* to ye Divine Will,—to get ye approbation of our own Hearts, & of the good and virtuous part of mankind, shall we then have any reason to complain of the hardness of our Lot? I think not;—and if Virtue is a necessary condition of Happiness (as I am much inclined to believe it is), can we ever obtain ye practice of it at too dear a rate? Surely, no. Let this great truth be strongly impressed upon our minds; That the Author of all things designs the best Good & Happiness of all, and that all the dispensations of his Providence, however dark & intricate to us short-sighted mortals, unerringly tend to that Grand Point. Shall we then allow ourselves, for the sake of some temporary gratifications, to wish the order & course of things to be changed, and this Great, this Good Purpose to be suspended or thwarted?— . . . How much more noble to submit,—cheerfully to submit,—& thereby (as far I mean as we little creatures can) help forward the Great, ye Good design of HIM who governs the Universe.

"The thought is transporting, & I would with pleasure entertain you longer with it; but the Objects which at present surround me, do not in the least lead my mind to such elevated speculations. So here I drop them. . . . . My dearest niece, adieu! Heaven preserve you safe thro these dark perilous days, & place you in a situation agreeable to your wishes, is the ardent wish & prayer of

Your very affectionate
UNCLE MARSTON."

"Let me hear from you as often as you can—your letters I am sure will give me pleasure."

[BENJ^n. MARSTON TO MRS. LUCIA WATSON.[2]]

"My dearest Lucia, sister, and my friend,
Whose tender heart a thousand fears invade,
Lest my misfortunes ne'er should have an end,
But each bad day a worse should still succeed,
Dispel your grief, and drive your fears away;
Clear up your brow, and set your heart at rest;
For HE, Whose will all nature does obey,
Will ever order what for all is best.
HE ne'er will suffer burdens too severe
To lay on any whom His hands have made;
But will for ever kindly interfere
In their distress, and lend all needful aid.
For passion ne'er impels the mind Divine
Man to afflict; their good His only aim:
Then at His dealings let us not repine,
But cheerfully submit, and bear the same.
What thô affliction is a rugged soil,
Yet are its products right, and good, and fair;

[1] This niece of Mr. Marston subsequently became the wife of the Hon. Nathaniel Niles, of Fairlee, Vermont, who was some time in public life.

[2] The date of this letter is lost, but it is supposed to have been written while the author was in duress, in Boston.

And fully will reward our hardest toil,
  If we attend it with a proper care.
For here alone we find the proper stage
  Whereon our virtue and our strength to try;
And he who does not with his foe engage,
  Can never hope the crown of victory.
Then let's not shrink when hardships on us lower;
  Nor wait their coming trembling in our place;
But let's exert each active, vigorous power,
  And meet their onset with a manly face.
Then shall we be to our own hearts approved,
  Conscious of virtue and of inward worth;
And those who have from heaven this boon received,
  Those—those are happy! happy! of a truth.

B. MARSTON."

[BENJ^N MARSTON TO HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW JOHN WATSON, OF PLYMOUTH, MASS.[1]]

"These few lines come to let you know
  That I am well,—hope you are so.
  (From this true style epistolary,
  All good writers ne'er should vary.)
  Also to give you information
  Of my present situation;
  Quite unlike yours, who, now at ease,
  Can ramble wheresoe'er you please,
  In town or out—on foot, or nag on,
  To Church, to Burlie's, or the Dragon;
  Can go see Tom, can dine with Prince,
  At night beat Peter of his pence;
  Who, with ill luck quite surly made,
  Growls like a bear with broken head.
  While I, poor de'il, am here confin'd,
  (A state which no way suits my mind)
  For being,—you know all the story,—
  A sad, incorrigible Tory.
  And being now so left i' the lurch,
  I cannot even go to Church.
  However, even let it run,—
  'Tis a long lane that has no turn.
  And when the tide is all ebb'd out,
  The next it does 'twill turn about,
  And flow as high, and sometimes more,
  As it low water was before.
  It is some comfort, when the course
  Of things is such they can't be worse,
  For the next change they then will take,
  Must certain for the better make.—
  Well, don't you think reasons like these
  Enough to keep one's heart at ease?
  Some being quaint old sayings too,
  And therefore twice as good as new.
  I 'll thus, to set my heart at rest,
  Of a bad bargain make the best.
  And yet it would some comfort be,
  If I could but an old friend see,
  With whom to sit awhile and chatter
  Of this and that and other matter;

[1] This letter is supposed to have been written while the author was in duress.

The many happy hours count o'er
Which we've enjoyed heretofore.
So if you will but hither come,
We'll add another to the sum,
Then in my turn I'll also tell ye
The accidents that have befel me,
And all the fine things I have seen,
In all the places where I've been;
Which I'll relate as certain true,
As most all other Travellers do.
Now love and service where 'tis due,
But more especially to you.
So, having nothing more to send
I am, 'till death, your loving friend,

B. Marston."

[Benjn Marston to his sister Mrs Lucia Watson.[1]]

My Dear Sister,

I received your kind letter, and am very glad to hear of your enjoying so good a degree of Health & Spirits (thô *that* I learn from more communicative pens than yours), when you have had much more to sink them than all my misfortunes put together.

Dangers escaped and Hardships gone thrô afford a pleasure on recollection. The tale is told with a degree of enjoyment & exultation, & He who can relate the most extraordinary adventures & most hair-breadth Escapes is allowed a kind of superiority over his less adventurous brethren.

But the calamities which sunder the close tyes of our Nature, The stroke which takes from us those who are parts of ourselves, must always when called to mind give a new pang to our sorrows. The idea raises our tenderest feelings,—on our hearts a Sense of our Loss immediately makes a most painfull impression. I truly & sincerely sympathise with you in the loss of your poor Boys, but am glad to find that so severe a Tryal has not affected the equal temper of your soul. I am also glad that their deaths were attended with circumstances which will always sooth that grief which the remembrance of them must occasion.

For my part I enjoy uninterrupted good health. The Hardships I have suffered have done it no harm. Neither have the misfortunes which have befallen me, as yet induced me to speak contemptuously of those good Things of Life, which for the present are out of my Reach. So long as we conceive that the Events of the Universe are under the control of a Power, wise & benevolent, we cannot consistently allow ourselves to repine at our Lot. I should like exceedingly well a situation less precarious, & less exposed. But if I can't have my Fortune to my mind, why then I will endeavour to accommodate my mind to my Fortune. Adversity has this one advantage at least over a more prosperous State of Things: which is,—That we may be sure that any share of Esteem & Regard w'ch we may have in the World is paid to our own selves, & not to that w'ch hangs about us: & This at least is soothing to our minds.

I accept with pleasure, my Good Brother, your kind concern for me, & every expression of your friendship. I hope we shall again have it in our power to promote our mutual happiness in a more solid and real way than by meer wishes, but w'ch at present we cannot do.

And you, my dear Girls, accept the only mark of my Friendship which I can now bestow, My most cordial & sincere wish for every thing that is good for you & yours. God bless you all, & be assured I am, with all truth and sincerity,

10, 1782. Your very affectionate

Ben. Marston.

[1] His youngest sister, wife of John Watson, Esq., of Plymouth, Mass.

Very little is known respecting his movements after he left this country. In one of his letters to his brother-in-law he compares England unfavorably with "other countries that he had seen;" and this seems to render it probable that he had been on the Continent of Europe, perhaps for the purpose of settling some business accounts with his correspondents in Amsterdam, Hamburg, Bilboa, and Malaga. If so the funds which he may have thus collected, and the small proceeds of sales of property rescued from confiscation by his friends in this country, must have been almost the only source from which he could have derived any means of support. However this may have been, it is very certain that he suffered great privations and hardships, from poverty and destitution, and from inability to procure employment; and that he never solicited or received any pecuniary relief from the British government.

While he was living in England he corresponded occasionally with his brothers-in-law, John, William, and Elkanah Watson, and their families in Plymouth, Mass., and also with his nephew, Marston Watson, of Marblehead. Some of his letters have been preserved in the family, and a few of them here follow; they may serve, in some degree, to show the bearing and spirit which he exhibited while enduring the penalties of his honest but mistaking judgment respecting the great events which terminated in our national independence.

[BENJ. MARSTON TO "MR. MARSTON WATSON MERCHANT IN MARBLEHEAD."]

MY DEAR MARSTON, London, March 10th, 1791.

I wrote you about a twelve month since, as I did at the same time to Brother John Watson & to Lucia, but having heard from none of you I am suspicious that my letters must have miscarryed, or I think I should have heard from some of you.[1]

The subject of my letters to you & Bro. Watson was most earnestly to beg you both to sett to in earnest about settling all my N. England affairs, selling all my property, paying all my debts, and if anything is left to send it to me. I now repeat my request with additional earnestness, for I want to know if I shall have any thing left for me in your quarter to help me now that I am fast verging towards old age.—Pray, my dear Marston, pay attention to my request, w'ch I am sure you will, when you consider that you will be helping the only surviving Brô. of your Mother: who, after a series of hardships, misfortunes & disappointments, for ye space of near 16 years, has not, now that he has passed his 60th year, a place that he can command to lay his head.

You or Brother Watson have my power for selling all my real Estate. If that should be by any accident lost, Still Go on to sell, I will absolutely confirm whatever you shall do in the business. I have inclosed a Schedule of my affairs that you may have some general plan to direct your operations by.

You'll observe that I have made a large allowance of interest in most cases. This you must fight off as much as you can,—if you can't all—why then what you can. I think there was a time in your State when interest could not be recovered against your own People by Foreigners: During that interval, at least, I should think they ought not to demand it, For Sauce for the Goose is Sauce for the Gander.

[1] In a letter dated April 24th of the same year he writes, "Which letter I sent in a Ship w'ch was lost on the French Coast."

Or was that law made for friends only? However, do for me as well as you can,—you'll find my affairs in a narrow compass—you won't have many People to deal with.

It may be necessary to observe a few things to you. I find Col^{l}. Lee's heirs had attach'd some of my property as interest of Jos. Hooper's in my hands. I owe him but about £10 or 12 Lm. 'tis true there was a large acc^{o}. vs. me in his book, but those articles were delivered in payment of a note of hand of Jos. to me for £146 13 4. Lm. in consideration of ye last piece of land I sold him to the eastward of his house lot. This note was lost or embezzled when the Mhd committee seized upon my books & papers—as many other papers with my last cash books were—for that never came with the rest of my books wch were sent me. If Col^{l} Lee's heirs avail themselves of this circumstance & take so much of my property as Jos. interest, 'tis so much taken from me for nothing, for I owe him no more than above recited, & if they have done it, They ought in justice to refund it, or they'll be guilty of what I think them not capable of seriously intending: the doing a great injury to an unfortunate man who by accidents wch he could not prevent is unable to defend his right. I think when they know the truth they will do me right.

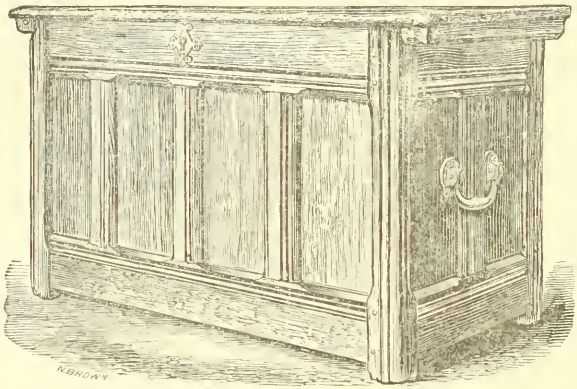
Henry Gallaison has my acct. vs. his Father & vs. the owners of the Salisbury down to the last voyage inclusively. I think something is due to me there. See how that affair stands. My letter to him with the acc^{t}. will explain the whole matter.—When I left Mhd in '75 I put a note of £30 l.m. due from ye Select-men of Rindge in New-Hampshire into Brô. Sweet's hands, he was to collect the money & pay £25 of it to Jos. Lee & Co. of Beverly. Pray hunt up that matter & do what may be necessary therein. I have, I think, sent you Mr. Sweet's account before, but least I should be mistaken I have made such an abstract of it as I could from memory only. Therefore any wrong computations must be made right & the bl'nks be properly filled up.

Your aunt Sally Marston left a will in wch she bequeathed two Legacies of £50 each to the poor of the two Chhes in Plimouth. Now Chhs in *N. E.* are not bodies corporate, therefore can have no poor, & therefore those two legacies are impossibles, being made to non-existents. Your Aunt's intention was doubtless a benevolent one, to help some individuals of y^{se} Chhs whom she might know to be in Indigent circumstances. But as they must e'er now be out of the reach, as well as want of all human charity, I am for stopping the money in our own hands. I don't see any injury done to any one in so doing, nor do I think it any breach of ye spirit of her will, & therefore declare against paying it, if it can be avoided. I am full as poor as any of those Chh members whom Sally intended her benevolence for, & if she were to make her will now she would think me as much an object of her charity. As to allowing Interest on what may be due to her estate, I hope my Brethren will consider my misfortunes. However I leave it with them. In the case of my debts to D^{r}. Toppan's heirs, as they have denied any demand, I think they ought to be content with their simple debt, being obliged to the Integrity of the Debtor for their money. Should they still refuse to take the money you need not force it upon them.

I should be glad if it would suit you for you to take all my real Estate, 'twould be a satisfaction to me to have it go in the Line of the family. As to its value, I can be no judge after such a change of circumstances. Make your own terms. Or if that would be putting too much upon you, Let Col^{l} Orne, Thos Lewis, or any other two or three of my acquaintance or other Judicious men fix the value. I shall be satisfyed with what they may do. In 1784 I sent up to Brô. John Watson or to you ye following acc^{ts} viz.—Jno Burnam—Tho. Bootman's—Major Pederick's James Mugford's—Uncle Eb^{r} Stacy's—Robt Hooper 3 tius—Col^{l} Orne's—D^{r}. Lowel's—Jos. Lee & Co, of Beverly—let them all be adjusted.

M^{rs}. Marston conveyed to me all her estate in the N. E. end of her Father Sweet's mansion-house & Bootman's farm, for wch purpose they were first conveyed to Isaac Mansfield jun^{r} & by him to me. The deed to him was recorded. His to me was not on acc^{t}. of the confusions then taking place. I believe Old Squire Mansfield has that deed: hunt it up & have it recorded.—Presuming that my affair wth my cuzen Story has been settled according to my Statement, I have estimated my mother Lee's

debt about £50, but this with all submission to the Referees award.—I left in Bootman's care in '75, 3 Looking Glasses, all my China and Glass Ware. If any of them are left, Let them all be sold for y^e most they 'll fetch.



There is among my Pewter a Dish with the Winslow's arms engraved upon the Rim: y^re is also a Small 8 Sq: looking Glass[1] wth a black frame: — & a large Oaken Chest.[2] These once belonged to my Grand Father Winslow of Marshfield, & were brôt out of England by his Grand: Father at the first settlement of Plymouth. If they are yet in being as I hope they are, take care of them & if any Opp^y presents send them down to N. Brunswic to the care of Ward Chipman, Esq^e St. John's. Also Hartley's Essay on Man, 2 vols. 8vo.

I am sincerely tired of England, but how to get out of it is the question: without the means 'tis impossible, & at present I am without y^m. I have about 12 m^o since fallen into an employment of 50 Guineas a year & subsistence. This by the end of the year will enable me to discharge some arrears for necessaries when I was without any means of subsistence. My Health & Vigor, with all my mental powers, are, Thank God, unhurt: I am as fit for any arduous enterprize as I ever was.

M^r. Robie was in London this winter. I saw him a few times only, & did not know till since his departure that he intended returning & residing at Mhd. I owe him about £95 Hlfx carr^y wth interest from about 1st Decr. 1786. I have added his debt to the Schedule, & I wish you would take care of him as well as of my other Creditors. My debt to him and the Debloises is for Goods wch I carryed to Mirimichi and sold y^re, but too late to get paid that Season. I have about £300 there in good hands wch I could collect if I cou'd go thither, but for want of means of going, that property is all useless to me: so that if you should succeed in settling my affairs as to have a surplusage, it would help me more ways than one.

My dear Marston, I think you don't need me to use any arguments to urge you to compleat all my affairs. I therefore have only to add,—God bless you & yours is the sincere wish of

Your very affectionate Uncle

BEN. MARSTON.

[1] The "small 8 Sq: looking-glass," and the "large oaken chest," here mentioned, have been carefully preserved to the present time and are still in the possession of our family. There is also a wedding slipper of Penelope Pelham, who married Josiah the son of Edward Winslow. It was given to my brother, the late B. M. Watson, "to transmit to posterity," by my grandfather Watson, whose wife was Patience Marston.—I have never known what became of the "dish, with the Winslow's arms engraved upon the rim," and shall be very glad to obtain any information about it.

[2] The following is the inscription on the brass plate on the old oaken chest, of which a wood cut is in the text of this article:

"THIS CHEST
was brought to Plymouth in the Ship May-Flower, December 22d, 1620, by Edward Winslow, afterwards Governor of Plymouth Colony, and from him, through his great-granddaughter,
ELIZABETH WINSLOW,
daughter of the Hon. Isaac Winslow, of Marshfield, and wife of Benjamin Marston, Esq. of Salem, Essex County, and afterward of Manchester, Mass., descended to her great-grandson, Benjamin Marston Watson, of the City of Boston, its present possessor, who has affixed this plate and inscription this 20th day of June, in the year of our Lord 1830."

P. S. I believe there is something due to our old butcher—Parson Waitt, as we used to call him. Inquire into it. Y^re is an acc^o open with him in my book, but I've no idea how much. Settle it as well as you can.

Should you have any thing to send me, Remit it to Lane, Son & Frazier, merch^s in London, for my acc^ot.—Any letters to me must be directed to No. 41 Oxford Street, London, where they will be taken care of.

[BENJ^n MARSTON TO MRS. ELIZABETH WATSON.[1]]

London, March 19th: 1792.

MY DEAR SISTER,

It was with singular satisfaction I rec^d. your letter by Cap^n. Davis, which I should have answered before now, but that I had no account to send you which could give you any pleasure to read. That circumstance is now altered, and I now sit down and write to you with great satisfaction. For I have at length fairly waded thrô the *Slough of Despond*. I am now landed on the opposite side, & shall go on my way rejoicing, Having once more emerged into active Life.

In fact I am engaged to go out with a large Company who are going to make a Settlement on the Hand Bulam on the coast of Africa, as their Land Surveyor General, on a pretty good lay. I have 60£ ster. pr ann. & Subsistence (wch is no great Salary for such an employment) & 500 acres of Land without any expence to me,—others pay £30. for that quantity, and Proprietors who reside in England £60. But this land will be worth £500. as soon as the company shall have established themselves on the Ground by building their houses &c which They will soon do as They go out prepared for every thing in great force.

But my expectations are chiefly from events wch This Settlement will give rise to, The great Object of which is to found a great commercial System with the Native Africans on reciprocal advantages, To cut up by the roots that most wicked traffic, The Slave trade, which all flesh in this country are strongly setting their faces against—W. India planters, & Guinea Merchants excepted—and which will most certainly be eventually abolished.

With common industry This Settlement must succeed & that in a Short time,—The soil is so fertile, & the natural productions so valuable,—Sugar cane of the best quality—Cotton, of divers kinds, all valuable—Indigo—Coffee, are among its Spontaneous productions, & in great abundance,—Rice is produced twice a year,—Indian Corn flourishes exceedingly,—so that I shall once more enjoy the luxury of *roasting ears*, & boiled corn & beans,—Yams,—sweet potatoes,—all the Tropical fruits,—with poultry & all kinds of Game without number.

No expedition could have hit my taste & humour more exactly than such an one as this promises to do. It is so much of the *Robinson Crusoe* kind, that I prefer it vastly to any employment of equal emolument & of a more regular kind that might have been offered to me in this country. In fact I am truly glad that I can leave England, of which I am heartily tired. It is in most respects inferior to every country I have ever seen,—excepting what the Art, Skill & Industry of Its Inhabitants have done for it,—which has not yet,—nor never can—procure for it Bright Suns & Serene Skies.

You say you have mourned me as *dead & buried*. In truth, my dear Sister, I have been much worse off. I have, for more than four years been *buryed alive*. But God in His merciful providence, has at last raised me up again to active useful Life, for which I feel myself sincerely thankful.

As to gratifying your wish in making my native country the residence of the remainder of my days, it is not at present in my power to do, for want of means. But was that otherwise—in this day of Enterprize, Revolution & Adventure, I feel myself more gratifyed in being engaged in some active Scene thô arduous, than I cou'd possibly be in what is called a calm retreat. That Rambling humour which was born with me,—& which has never yet been fully gratifyed—being now unrestrained by any local connexions, will be yet prompting me to engage in adventures which will carry me to new scenes, especially while I have vigor of body & mind capable of fatigue & application—& of that I yet find no decay.—(I write & read yet by candle light, without Glasses.) In this I follow my natural

[1] Wife of William Watson, Esq., of Plymouth, Mass., Collector of Customs.

bent, for there is not remaining the least resentment in my mind to the Country, because the party whose side I took in the late great Revolution, did not succeed, for I am now fully convinced It is better for the World that they have not. For it is the foundation,—the first step, to what has since followed in France,—& of many others yet in Embryo in the other European Kingdoms, in almost all of which the fermentation is already begun,—& it will proceed till all Usurpation, all Lording of one over many, both in Spirituals & Temporals, will be entirely wrôt off & despumated, & Man be left master of himself. The very expedition I am engaged in is a link in the same great chain, and with some others of the same kind already begun in Africa, is the dawn of Light, Knowledge & Civilization to those regions of Darkness, Ignorance, & Barbarity. To be aiding in bringing about such events, thô even confined to the humble Station of a Surveyor of Lands, is more eligible, & in fact more meritorious than to be at the head of 100,000 disciplined cut-throats, murdering one's fellow creatures, to gratify the ambition, malice & avarice of some Great Scoundrel & Rascal, called King or Emperor.

I don't mean by this to pay any compliment to the first instigators of our American Revolution. Although it has eventually been of such advantage to Mankind, I should as soon think of erecting monuments to Judas Iscariot, Pontius Pilate, & the Jewish Sanhedrim for betraying and crucifying the Lord of Life, because that event was so importantly & universally beneficial.

I am glad, my dear Sister, to find you have so much Faith, Patience, & good Sense, as to bear your adverse fortune with so much equanimity, & don't think yourself wretched, thô you have been Stripped of your property. Misfortunes cease to be so when we use them as opportunities of exercising Patience, Fortitude & ready Submission to the will of Providence. And 'tis wonderful how soon we acquire the habits of those Virtues, if we have but the good Sense to find out how many Things we can do without. I am exceedingly glad that in the midst of all your disasters, Mr. Watson has been so fortunate as to get an employment of a public kind, that procures you a comfortable support.

I thank you, my Good Brother, very heartily, for your fraternal Sympathy, & your kind disposition to assist me under my misfortunes. The Heart of a Friend is of more value, more to be esteemed, than a thousand favors bestowed by hands which have no feeling for us.

My dear Brother & Sister, adieu. Thank God that you have gotten so far thrô your journey & so well:—that those, for whom you would be naturally more concerned than for yourselves, are well provided for,—otherwise That would be a great weight upon your minds. But now you have none to care for but yourselves. Make yourselves therefore as comfortable as you can & leave the rest to Providence.

Remember me very kindly to Mrs. Niles,[1] & Mrs. Davis,—to Brô. Elkanh. & his dtrs.—poor Lucia,[2] I am sorry for her—however what God sends is best for us all. To His care & good Providence I heartily commend you all, & am with the greatest sincerity,

Your affectionate Brô.
Ben: Marston.

The company, with which Mr. Marston "had engaged to go out as land surveyor," was composed of a number of individuals of various characters and conditions, associated together,—without any charter from the government,—for the purpose of making a British settlement at Bulama, an island on the western coast of Africa, about 20 miles from Sierra Leone.[3] It was then inhabited by the Bijugas, and other savage tribes, and is described as

[1] Eliza, dau. of Wm. and Elizabeth (Marston) Watson.
Ellen, dau. of the same, married the Hon. John Davis, LL.D., of Boston, editor of "Morton's Memorial."

[2] The Lucia here mentioned was not his sister of that name, but his niece, dau. of "Brô Elkanh," and Patience (Marston) Watson. She died March 20, 1791.

[3] "Life and Services of Capt. Philip Beaver, by Capt. W. H. Smith, R.N."

"densely wooded, of great fertility of soil, and abounding in elephants, buffaloes, and other wild animals." It is about 20 miles in length, and 10 or 15 in breadth. Hesper-Eleusis, — which was the somewhat ambitious name given to the new settlement, — is in 11°34′ north latitude, and 15°30′ west longitude.

"The views of the society in undertaking this expedition were directed to cultivation, it being imagined that the produce of the West Indies might be readily raised at Bulama by free natives, and thus, — forming a contrast to the vicious habits of the slave-dealing Europeans, — contribute towards the civilization of those regions. Moreover it was conceived that a new and extensive channel would be opened to trade, which would at the same time be the means of introducing letters, liberty, and above all a knowledge of the Christian religion, amongst the sable sons of that vast continent."[1]

It may well be supposed that such elevated views as these would readily commend themselves to the feelings and judgment of Mr. Marston; and that in his then destitute condition he would gladly accept the situation which was offered him. And we find by his letters at this time that it was not only with a deep sense of "thankfulness to God for having lifted him up from penury and destitution," but also with the "humble hope that he might be of some little service to others, perhaps as destitute as himself."

But, "as might have been expected," says Captain Smith, "all the adventurers were not actuated by the same praiseworthy motives, and many great errors were committed." After a number of discouraging circumstances, "which seemed as if an inauspicious destiny governed the adventure," they embarked on board the Calypso, of 298 tons, commanded by Lieut. Hancorne, and the Hanky, under the authority of Lieut. Philip Beaver, R.N., with 275 colonists, men, women and children, and finally left England on the 14th of April, 1792; and after a long and tedious passage, —during which many of the colonists, "tired with the length of the voyage, irritated with sickness, the loss of their associates, and the disappointment of their hopes, had become dissatisfied with their situation," — the vessels at length came to an anchor, on the 5th of June, in sight of Bulama.

The attempts of the hapless colonists to effect a settlement, "surrounded as they were by treachery and danger from the natives, with incessant rains pouring like torrents," causing fevers and other diseases, "fraught with sufferings almost insurmountable"; the frightful reduction of their numbers, and the consequent abandonment of the ill-fated expedition by the few survivors, are all unaffectedly described by Capt. Philip Beaver, "in his 'African Memoranda,' an interesting book, written in a plain and

[1] "Life and Services of Capt. Philip Beaver," &c.

unpolished, but manly style, every page of which bears internal evidence of the strictest veracity." It was from this narrative that the friends of Benjamin Marston received intelligence of the disastrous termination of the expedition in which he had engaged, and that he died on the Island of Bulama, of the African fever, on the 10th of August, 1792.

In an article in the *London Quarterly Review*, on the "Life and Services of Captain Philip Beaver, of his Majesty's Ship Nisus," written by the celebrated Robert Southey, there occurs the following passage:

"One of that little number was one of the first victims to the climate, Mr. Benjamin Marston, the Surveyor of the Colony, of whom Beaver has left this memorial in his Journal: never was a more feeling, or a nobler tribute rendered to departed worth:

"'Bulama Island, Sunday,
August 12th, 1792.

"'Mr. Ozane, who left England in a deep consumption, was dead; also that truly good and valuable man, Mr. Benjamin Marston, our Surveyor. Mr. Marston was born in Marblehead, New-England, where he was a respectable Merchant, and had considerable property at the commencement of those unfortunate troubles which terminated in the separation of that Country from England. In consequence of his loyalty he had not only lost a comfortable competency, but had undergone for the last ten years unheard of, and almost incredible difficulties. Sometimes he was whole days without bread; and weeks together his daily expenditure amounted only to three half-pence — a penny-worth of bread, and a half-penny-worth of figs. Too noble to beg, yet willing to work, but unknown and friendless in England, no one would employ him. Thus did this good man struggle in poverty for ten years in that country, for whose interests he had quitted his friends, his relations, the lands of his ancestors, and every thing that is dear to man.

"'I never heard this good man rail at, or say hard things of that country by which he had been so ill treated; he bore all patiently. He was about 60 years of age, had been educated at Harvard College, New-England, and was both learned and pious. Happy in having known such a man, I felt it a duty to endeavour to record his virtues. Should this Journal, by any accident, ever reach Marblehead, it may be a consolation to some of his friends and family to know what became of him; at the same time to know, if he did not die a rich man, he died a good man; for I cannot be suspected of flattering or overcharging the character of one whom I never saw till in this expedition; and who, though it ought to have been otherwise, was in such a situation as would not be likely to procure an interested panegyrist. It may be also some consolation to them to learn that his virtues were not unknown; and that though we may have but little ourselves, we have at least sufficient to respect it in others; that this good man lived respected, and died regretted by all; and is now we trust, receiving the reward of his virtues and sufferings in this world.'

"This is such a record as none but a wise and good man could have written; it is here inserted to illustrate the character of Beaver himself, and to fulfil the intention, or rather the hope with which he penned it. For this Journal assuredly will reach Marblehead; and it may yet find there some who are akin to the deceased, and others who remember him; and they will feel upon perusing it, if they can distinguish between good and evil, that though this good man took what they deem the wrong, as well as the unsuccessful part, and when proscribed from one country, found for his earthly recompense ingratitude in the other, neglect, poverty and destitution, he bore his sufferings meekly, bravely and contentedly; with the consciousness of having acted according to his own clear sense of duty; and has thereby obtained an honorable remembrance. They who bear his name ought to be more proud of it than if he had left rank and honor and large possessions to his representatives."[1]

[1] *London Quarterly Review*, vol. xli., July, 1829, art. v.

With this "feeling and noble tribute to departed worth" by Captain Beaver, and the sympathizing remarks of Robert Southey, I may well close this brief and imperfect account of one, whose character these memoirs may serve to illustrate, and whose memory I desire to honor. Among those who took the same part with him in the great struggle which led to such important results, are found the names of many of his relatives and connections; and it is asserted by Sabine, in his valuable "History of the American Loyalists," that "a majority of the best educated and most respected persons of their time, at least in New-England, were found, at first, on the loyal side." [1]

What may have been the motives of others it is not necessary now to discuss; for at this distance of time all due allowances can be made for what may be thought "a mistake in taking the wrong, as well as the unsuccessful part." But I am inclined to think that even the scanty materials which have here been brought together will be sufficient to convince the most prejudiced reader, that, in this case, as, without a doubt, in many others, the decision was honestly and conscientiously made. It was from no personal considerations; from no expectation of honors and rewards, or desire of rank and distinction; but simply from a deep conviction of duty, a clear sense of loyalty to the British crown, that he gave up every thing that was dear to him,—his "pleasant and spacious dwelling-house," with its "fine old garden for morning exercise"; his cherished library; his "much property"; his well-earned reputation as a merchant, a magistrate, and a citizen; his relatives, friends, and native country, and became a refugee, and a wanderer upon the face of the earth, "without a place that he could command to lay his head." I take up the words of Robert Southey, and acknowledge for myself and his relatives, and "those who bear his name," that we are "more proud of it than if he had left rank and honor and large possessions to his representatives." And I trust that I may with propriety express the opinion that few of those who embraced the cause of the Mother Country, in those trying times, were led by more honorable, or disinterested motives, or are more deserving of respectful remembrance than Benjamin Marston, of Marblehead.

[1] He also says: "This Book contains notices of 150 persons who were educated at Harvard College, or some other American or foreign institution of learning; and could the whole number of Loyalists who received College honors be ascertained, it would be found probably that the list is far from being complete."—*Sabine's History of the American Loyalists.*

In making this compilation, I have only attempted "to gather up all the scattered and decaying records" that could be found at this full late day, respecting the three men of New-England birth who form the subject of these unpretending memoirs, and who were not altogether undistinguished in their day and generation; "to trace out their genealogy," and that of some of the families connected with them, and arrange them according to their several dates and periods; and then "to place the whole in a permanent form" in the pages of the New-England Historical and Genealogical Register.

APPENDIX.

CONTAINING

Brief Genealogies of some of the Descendants

OF

BENJAMIN MARSTON

AND

ELIZABETH WINSLOW.

"Such as our fathers have told us; that we should not hide them from the children of the generations to come: to the intent that when they came up, they might show their children the same."—Psalm lxxviii. v. 4.

WATSON GENEALOGY.

[From the New-England Historical and Genealogical Register, vol. xviii. p. 363.]

George Watson was one of the prominent early settlers of Plymouth; he was a resident of the town in 1633, and a freeman of the colony in 1637. In 1635 he purchased a dwelling of Deacon Richard Masterton, and became a householder. He married Phebe, the youngest daughter of Robert Hickes, who was a passenger in the "Fortune" in 1621; and whose wife Margaret, and daughter Phebe, with the rest of the family, followed in the "Anne," in the summer of 1623.[1]

Mr. Watson was one of the most respectable and useful members of the early settlement at Plymouth, holding various offices of trust, and faithfully performing his public duties, while his prudence enabled him to become quite independent, owning large tracts of land. He reared up a family of four children, — three having died in infancy, — from whom have sprung many of the most useful and prominent men of the colony and state, down to the present period.

Mr. Watson died Jan. 31, 1689, in his 87th year. His wife Phebe died May 22, 1663. Their children were: (1.) Phebe, m. Jan. 22, 1656–7, Jonathan Shaw. (2.) Mary, b. 1641; m. Aug. 21, 1662, Thomas Leonard, of Taunton; d. Dec. 1723. (3.) John, d. young. (4.) Samuel, twin with the following. (5.) Elizabeth, b. Jan. 18, 1647–8; m. Nov. 28, 1667, Joseph Williams, of Taunton. (6.) Jonathan, b. March 9, 1652; d. young. (7.) Elkanah, the only son who grew up to manhood, b. Feb. 25, 1656; m. in 1676, Mercy Hedge, daughter of William Hedge, and was drowned in Plymouth Harbor, Feb. 8, 1690.

John Watson *(first)* was the fourth son of Elkanah and Mercy *(Hedge)* Watson. He was born in Plymouth, Mass., in 1681. He

[1] "Robert Hickes lived in Bermondsey Street, Southwark, London, about the year 1616. He came over to this country in the second small ship, Fortune, which arrived at New-Plymouth, Nov. 11th, 1621. Margaret Hickes, his wife, and her children came in the Anne in June, 1623. The names of their children are as follow: Samuel, Ephraim, Lydia, and Phebe."—(Davis's *Morton's Memorial*, pp. 378, 385, 413.) "It is from the youngest of these children, Phebe Hickes, who, in 1635, married George Watson, that all the families of the Watsons in the old colony derive their descent."

married *(first)*, Jan. 26, 1715, *Sarah Rogers*, daughter of Dr. Daniel and Sarah (Appleton) Rogers, of Ipswich, Mass., and had two sons, (1.) JOHN, born April 19, 1716, and (2.) GEORGE, born July 18, 1718. He married *(second)*, July 8, 1729, *Priscilla Thomas*, daughter of Caleb and Priscilla (Capen) Thomas, and had two more sons, (1.) WILLIAM, born May 6, 1730, and (2.) ELKANAH, born Feb. 27, 1732. He died Sept. 9, 1731.

"1731. John Watson, Esq., expired Sept. 9, aged about 50 years. He was a useful and respectable inhabitant of the town, transacted much business, and afforded employment to a great number of poor people. He was charitably disposed, and supposed to possess the largest estate of any person in the county."—(THACHER'S *History of Plymouth.*)

JOHN WATSON *(second)*, the oldest son of JOHN *(first)* and SARAH *(Rogers)* WATSON, was born in Plymouth, April 19, 1716; he was graduated at Harvard College, 1735; and died in Plymouth, Jan. 1753. He married, in 1743, *Elizabeth*, daughter of Joseph and Phebe (Manchester) Reynolds, of Bristol, R. I., and had children: (1.) JOHN, born 1747. (2.) DANIEL. (3.) ELIZABETH.

"Mr. John Watson was a scholar and a gentleman. He died in January, at the early age of 37 years; and his wife having died before, they left three orphan children, two sons and a daughter. One of the sons was the late John Watson, Esq., the second President of the Pilgrim Society."
—(THACHER'S *History of Plymouth.*)

JOHN WATSON *(third)* was the oldest son of JOHN *(second)* and ELIZABETH *(Reynolds)* WATSON. He was born in Plymouth, in 1747, was graduated at Harvard College in 1766, and died Feb. 1, 1826. He married *(first)*, in 1769, *Lucia Marston*, youngest daughter of Col. BENJAMIN and ELIZABETH *(Winslow)* MARSTON, and had children: (1.) JOHN, m. 1794, *Pamela Howard.* (2.) GEORGE, b. April 24, 1771; m. June 24, 1801, *Elizabeth Leach;* d. in Roxbury, Aug. 21, 1860. (3.) SALLY. (4.) BENJAMIN, m. 1804, *L. B. Sturgis.* (5.) LUCIA, d. young. (6.) LUCIA, m. 1799, *John Taylor.* (7.) DANIEL, m. 1810, *Susan Studdley.* (8.) WILLIAM, d. young. (9.) WILLIAM, m. *H. Delano.* (10.) WINSLOW, m. 1813, *H. L. Goodwin.* (11.) BROOKE. He married *(second) Mrs. Eunice* (Marston[1]) *Goodwin*, and had children: (1.) EDWARD WINSLOW, the present owner and occupant of Clark's Island. (2.) ELIZA ANN. (3.) ALBERT MORTIMER, m. November, 1831, *Abigail Burgess.*

[1] Mrs. Goodwin was the daughter of John Marston, of Boston, and the sister of the late John Marston, Esq., born in Boston 1756, and died in Taunton, Mass., 1846. The children of the last John Marston, now living, are: (1.) Louisa, residing in Taunton. (2.) John, commodore in the U. S. Navy. (3.) Ward, lieut. colonel U. S. Marine Corps.

I have not been able to trace the connection of this family with the Marstons of Salem.

"1826, Feb. 1. Died John Watson, Esq., aged 78. He was graduated at Harvard College in 1766, and was one of the founders of the Old Colony Club in 1769, and the last surviving member of that association of worthies. He was the first vice-president of the Pilgrim Society, and after the death of Judge Thomas, the president, was elected to fill that office, which he held till his death. Mr. Watson was the proprietor of Clark's Island, where the Pilgrims 'spent y^e Sabbath,' Dec. $\frac{10}{20}$, 1620, and where he resided during about forty years of his life. To that spot he always felt a peculiar attachment, as affording antiquarian associations, in which he delighted to indulge, and to recount to his family and friends. He left many sons and daughters of respectable standing in life." — (THACHER'S *History of Plymouth.*)

GEORGE WATSON, the second son of JOHN *(first)* and SARAH *(Rogers)* WATSON, was born in Plymouth, July 18, 1718, and died Dec. 3, 1800, aged 82. He married, first, in 1747, *Abigail*, daughter of Richard Saltonstall, born Oct. 28, 1728, and had one son, GEORGE, who died young. He married, second, *Elizabeth*, daughter of Peter Oliver, born about 1735, died Feb. 19, 1767, aged 32 years. By her he had children: (1.) MARY, b. April 15, 1754; m. *Elisha Hutchinson*, son of Gov. Thomas Hutchinson, author of the *History of Massachusetts Bay.* (2.) GEORGE, b. July 24, 1757; d. Aug. 10, 1757. (3.) SARAH, b. March 23, 1759; m. *Martin Brimmer*, of Boston; d. Aug. 23, 1832, aged 73 years. (4.) ELIZABETH, b. Aug. 29, 1764; d. in infancy. (5.) ELIZABETH, b. Feb. 19, 1767; m. first, the *Hon. Thos. Russell*, an opulent merchant of Boston; m. second, *Sir Grenville Temple, Bart.;* d. at Rome (Italy), Nov. 4, 1809.

"George Watson died Dec. 3, 1800, universally beloved and respected.

"Two days after his death the inhabitants of his native town assembled together in town meeting, and after a very complimentary preamble, eulogistic of the deceased, passed the following votes:

"1. Voted, That on the day of the interment of George Watson, Esq., the Selectmen be requested to direct the sexton to toll the bell, commencing at sunrise, and continue three hours.

"2. That it be recommended to the inhabitants to suspend their usual business in the streets, by shutting up their shops, stores, &c., from two o'clock P.M. till the funeral is over.

"3. That it be recommended to the owners of shipping in the harbour to place their flags half-mast high, in token of mourning during the day of interment.

"The lamented subject of the above eulogium was of an ancient and honourable family; he died at the advanced age of 82 years. Rev. Mr. Kendal preached a sermon on occasion of his death, which was printed."

—(THACHER'S *History of Plymouth.*)

WILLIAM WATSON, the oldest son of JOHN WATSON *(second)* by his second wife PRISCILLA THOMAS, was born in Plymouth, May 6, 1730; was graduated at Harvard College in 1751, and died April 22, 1815. He married, in 1756, *Elizabeth Marston*, oldest daughter of Col. BENJAMIN and

Elizabeth *(Winslow)* Marston. Their children were: (1.) William. (2.) Eliza, m. the *Hon. Nathaniel Niles*, of West Fairlee, Vt. (3.) Benjamin. (4.) Ellen, m. the *Hon. John Davis*, Judge of U. S. District Court for Massachusetts.

"1815, April 22. Died in this town the Hon. William Watson, Esq. "This gentleman ranked himself among the respectable whigs and patriots of our revolution, and was ever a zealous advocate for the rights and liberties of our country. As a professor of religion he was exemplary, giving punctual attendance to its ordinances and duties. His moral virtue and integrity were unquestionable, and entitled him to the confidence of those authorities by whom he was appointed to public offices. In 1775, he was appointed the first Post-master ever in this town, by our provincial Congress. In 1789, he received a commission, under the hand of Washington, as Collector of this Port, which office he sustained till 1803, when he was removed by the succeeding President." — (Thacher's *History of Plymouth.*)

Elkanah Watson, the youngest son of John Watson *(second)* by his second wife, Priscilla Thomas, was born in Plymouth, Feb. 22, 1732. He was married *(first)*, Oct. 1, 1754, to *Patience Marston*, daughter of Col. Benjamin and Elizabeth *(Winslow)* Marston. She was born in Salem, Jan. 2, 1734, and died in Plymouth, April 20, 1767. He married *(second)*, Mrs. *Fanny* (Lee) *Glover*, widow of Capt. John Glover, of Marblehead, and daughter of Col. John Lee, of Manchester, Mass. His children by his first wife, *Patience Marston*, were: (1.) Marston, b. in Plymouth, May 27, 1756; m. March 30, 1779, *Lucy Lee*, daughter of Col. John and Joanna *(Raymond)* Lee, of Manchester, Mass.; d. Aug. 7, 1800, in Boston. (2.) Elkanah, b. Jan. 22, 1758; m. *Rachel Smith*, 1784; d. Dec. 5, 1842, at Port Kent, N. Y. (3.) Priscilla, b. Sept. 30, 1760; m. Nov. 13, 1808, the *Rev. Josiah Cotton;* d. in Plymouth, Oct. 28, 1859, aged 99 years. (4.) Martha, b. October, 1762; d. unmarried, in Roxbury, Mass., Aug. 26, 1840. (5.) Lucia, b. Nov. 11, 1765; d. unmarried, in Freetown, Mass., March 20, 1791. By his second wife, *Fanny Glover*, he had: (1.) Charles Lee, b. in 1793, and d. about 1803. (2.) Lucia, b. 1795; m. *Thomas Drew, M.D.*

In the early part of his life he was a merchant, doing business in Plymouth; after the beginning of the revolution he removed to Freetown, Mass., to occupy a farm there, which was part of his patrimony. A short time before his death he removed from Freetown to Plymouth, where he died on the 11th of August, 1804, and is interred in the Plymouth burying-ground. His age at his death was 72 years, 5 months and 19 days.

Marston Watson was the oldest son of Elkanah and Patience *(Marston)* Watson, and was born in Plymouth, Mass., May 27, 1756.

On the 30th of March, 1779, he married *Lucy Lee*, the youngest daughter of Col. John and Joanna *(Raymond)* Lee, of Manchester, Mass., and had children: (1.) Benjamin Marston, b. in Marblehead, Jan. 11, 1780; was graduated at Harvard College in 1800; m. *(first)*, Aug. 6, *Elizabeth Parsons*, oldest daughter of Chief-Justice Theophilus Parsons. She d. Feb. 6, 1831. He m. *(second)*, June 17, 1838, Mrs. *Roxanna Davis*, of Boston. He d. in Newton, Mass., Aug. 31, 1851. (2.) Lucy, b. April 8, 1781; d. in infancy. (3.) Martha Marston, b. May 11, 1782; m. Dec. 11, 1808, *Thomas Cushing*, of Boston; d. June 9, 1810. (4.) Lucy Lee, b. June 16, 1783; d. in Boston, Feb. 4, 1807. (5.) Sally Maria, b. Oct. 16, 1784; m. Dec. 20, 1818, *Thomas Welsh*, of Boston; d. April 21, 1824. (6.) Laura A., b. Nov. 8, 1786; d. in Boston, Sept. —, 1858. (7.) Henry Monmouth, b. July 14, 1788; d. in Boston, Aug. 9, 1805. (8.) Horace Howard, b. June 25, 1789; m. *Thirza Hobart*, of Hingham; d. Dec. 21, 1867, at Chelsea, Mass. (9.) Eliza Constantia, b. July 4, 1791; m. Jan. 5, 1813, *Thomas Cushing;* d. in Boston, Sept. 21, 1872. (10.) Agnes Lee, b. Aug. 30, 1793; d. in Boston, April 12, 1839. (11.) Almira, b. June 2, 1795. (12.) John Lee, b. in Boston, Aug. 27, 1797; was graduated at Harvard College in 1815; m. Jan. 20, 1828, *Elizabeth West*, daughter of John West, Esq., of Taunton, Mass. She was b. in Boston, July 21, 1809, and d. in Orange, New-Jersey, Dec. 30, 1871. (13.) Adolphus Eugene, b. in Boston, Nov. 15, 1800; was graduated at Harvard College in 1820; m. *(first)*, *Louisa C. M. Stoughton*, of Boston, Sept. 23, 1822, who d. in Philadelphia, Oct. 24, 1832; *(second)*, *Eliza Mellen*, of Cambridge, Mass., Oct. 8, 1835, who d. at Northampton, Mass., April 27, 1843; *(third)*, *Susan L. Ferguson*, March 25, 1845.

Biographical Notices of Marston Watson, Esq., Member of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

[From the Mass. Historical Society Collections, vol. viii. p. 80.]

"Mr. Watson was a descendant from one of the branches of an ancient and respectable family in the town of Plymouth. He was born May 27, 1756. After receiving an excellent school education, and being qualified for admission into the university, he was, at the age of fourteen, placed an apprentice with Col. Jeremiah Lee, then an eminent merchant in Marblehead. Upon the death of Col. Lee, in 1775, Mr. Watson resumed his classick studies, with an intention of entering college in advance, and had actually made arrangements at Cambridge for that purpose; but the revolutionary war having then commenced, and Col. Glover offering him a lieutenantcy in his own regiment, Mr. Watson, reluctantly abandoning his literary

pursuits, accepted the commission, and in the month of December, 1776, was actively engaged in the battles of Trenton and Princeton, in which Glover's regiment bore a distinguished share. He was particularly patronized by Gen. Charles Lee, and acted as his temporary aid-de-camp. Gen. Lee had made arrangements for his permanent establishment in that office, and he served in that capacity at the battle of Monmouth. But upon the suspension of Gen. Lee, his hopes of immediate promotion being checked, he relinquished the army, and engaged in commerce. His activity and industry were prospered. He married in 1779, and established himself at Marblehead. In 1790 he was appointed lieutenant-colonel of the Marblehead regiment, and in about three years afterwards was lieutenant-colonel commandant. In 1794, when eighty thousand of the militia of the United States were provisionally detached under the apprehensions of a rupture with Great Britain, Col. Watson was selected to command a regiment detached from the division to which he belonged. In the year 1792 he represented the town of Marblehead in the general court. In May, 1797, he removed from Marblehead to Boston, where his extensive commercial concerns could be more conveniently and advantageously conducted. In this situation he greatly extended his business and connexions, and in the midst of a community where the able and intelligent merchant is sure to be duly estimated, he was highly respected. His residence in the town was considered as a public benefit, and the prosperity which attended his commercial pursuits was regarded with complacence, as the just reward of strict integrity,[1] unblemished honor, and well-directed exertion. To great industry and application to business, he united the virtues which adorn and elevate the human character. He was hospitable, beneficent, public-spirited, friendly and sincere. In his domestick relations, the deep sensibilities of his afflicted family and friends afford affecting evidence of his tenderness and worth.

"The busy engagements of active life never extinguished that attachment to letters, to which he was prompted by the native bent of his mind, and by early education. All the leisure he could command was devoted to mental improvement, and attention to the education of a numerous family. The Massachusetts Historical Society, from a conviction of his literary attainments, and his regard to the objects of their institution, elected him a member of their society, April 29, 1800.

"He died Aug. 7, 1800, after a short illness, in the 45th year of his age."

[1] "An honorable instance of this gentleman's scrupulous regard to justice deserves to be recorded. About seven years before his removal to Boston, a deranged state of his affairs, the effect of mere misfortune, rendered it necessary for him to seek a composition with his creditors, who gave him a discharge, receiving only a portion of their demands. In a few years afterwards, when his renewed exertions were blessed with success, his first care was to pay those creditors in full, though they had no legal demand against him."

Elkanah Watson, the second son of Elkanah and Patience *(Marston)* Watson, was born in Plymouth, Jan. 22, 1758; in 1784 he married *Rachel Smith*, and had children: (1.) Emily M., b. 1791; m. 1816, *George B. Larned*, of Pittsfield, and d. at Detroit, Mich., January, 1827. (2.) George Elkanah, b. Aug. 22, 1793; m. *Lucy Willis*, daughter of the Hon. N. Willis, and d. at Detroit, Mich., Jan. 13, 1819. (3.) Mary Lucia, b. 1797; m. January, 1820, *Gen. Aaron Ward*, of New-York, and d. at Sing Sing, N. Y., 1853. (4.) Charles Marston, b. 1799; m. Dec 12, 1850, *Elizabeth B. Shankland;* d. at Port Kent, N. Y., 1870. (5.) Winslow Cossoul, b. Dec. 22, 1803; m. *(first)*, *Frances Skinner*, daughter of R. Skinner, of Manchester, Vt., who d. April 26, 1829; m. *(second)*, *Susan Skinner*, who d. 1845; m. *(third)*, June 18, 1858, *Elizabeth A. Patterson.* [See Memoir of Elkanah Watson, N. E. Hist. and Gen. Register, vol. xvii. p. 97.]

Passages in the Life of Priscilla (Thomas) Hobart.

[From the Historical and Genealogical Register, vol. xxvii. p. 24.]

The following communication is extracted from the records of my late brother, Benjamin Marston Watson, born Jan. 11, 1780; graduated at Harvard College 1800, and died Aug. 31, 1851. He received all the particulars of this somewhat romantic history in the year 1848, almost *ipsissimis vĕrbis*, from my aunt, Mrs. Priscilla (Watson) Cotton, then the widow of the Rev. Josiah Cotton, of Plymouth.

Orange, N. J. John L. Watson.

CHAPTER I.

Noah Hobart, the last husband of my great-grandmother, Priscilla Hobart, was a school teacher in Duxbury, Mass., having graduated at Harvard College in 1724, and become acquainted with Priscilla Thomas, a very interesting young girl, daughter of Caleb Thomas, a respectable citizen of that town. Their acquaintance ripened into an engagement, and mutual promise of marriage, whenever his circumstances would permit him to discharge the debts he had contracted for his education. While this understanding subsisted between them, and they were enjoying the happy relation of affianced lovers, and calmly waiting for such improvement in their affairs as would justify their marriage, John Watson, Esq., of Plymouth, my great-grandfather, being a widower, having seen Priscilla, was much pleased with her, although the serious difference of nearly thirty years existed in their ages, he being about fifty, and she twenty-two years old. Being, however, thus charmed with Priscilla, he proceeded to Duxbury, and called on her parents, and made known to them his views and wishes in relation to Priscilla, and requested their consent to visit their daughter, with the object of offering himself to her in marriage.

They informed Mr. Watson that Priscilla was engaged to Mr. Hobart, but they would call her, and let her speak for herself, they seeming pleased with the offer, as Mr. Watson's circumstances were known to be very eligible.

CHAPTER II.

Priscilla was called, and appeared gratified with an offer from so rich a suitor, and observed that she would see Noah, and talk with him about it. She conversed with Noah, and he thought that upon the whole it was not advisable for her to lose so good an opportunity; and as he was still much in debt for his education, that it was quite uncertain when he would be able to relieve himself from his embarrassments, and be in a condition to marry her. She then concluded to accept Mr. Watson's offer; and in a few weeks he married her, and carried her to his home in Plymouth. In due time she bore him two sons, the eldest, my great uncle, William Watson, and the youngest, my grandfather, Elkanah Watson; and soon after, in September, 1731, her husband died of a fever, and left his wife a handsome young widow, of about twenty-five years of age.

CHAPTER III.

About the same time that Mr. Watson's death occurred, the wife of Thomas[1] Lothrop, Esq., one of their neighbors, died, leaving a young infant, which was frequently sent to Mrs. Watson to be nursed, she having also a nursing infant. In the meantime, Noah Hobart, probably not having yet paid his college debts, did not now manifest any particular sentiments, or intentions in relation to her, perhaps also being influenced by the contrast in their conditions, she being left a rich widow.

The intercourse created between Mr. Lothrop and Mrs. Watson by their mutual interest in his nursing infant, brought about a reciprocal interest in each other, and in due time he offered and was accepted by her as her second husband. She lived with him happily for some years, and bore him three children, two sons and a daughter, viz.: Dr. Nathaniel Lothrop and Isaac Lothrop, Esq., of Plymouth, and Priscilla, married to Gershom Burr, Esq., of Connecticut; when Mr. Lothrop died, and Priscilla became a widow for the second time.

CHAPTER IV.

Noah Hobart, while the incidents related in the former chapter were occurring to Priscilla, having been settled in the (Congregational) ministry

[1] On the authority of the Rev. E. B. Huntington, of Stamford, Conn., it appears that Priscilla Thomas married for her second husband, *Isaac* Lothrop, and not *Thomas;* and that they had *five* children instead of *three*, as stated in the following paragraph. They were Isaac, Dr. Nathaniel, Col. Thomas, Caleb and Priscilla.

at Fairfield, Conn., had married, and his wife had died previously to the death of Mr. Lothrop. At a suitable interval subsequent to these events, he concluded to make a visit to his first sweetheart, and went to Plymouth, and again proposed himself for her husband. She was very glad to see him, and received him very graciously; and much regretted that she could not accept his proposals without breaking a promise that she had made to Mr. Lothrop on his death-bed, not to marry while his mother lived. Noah, disappointed, set out for home with a heavy heart, and having reached Hingham, called on the Rev. Mr. Shute, who invited him to stop and preach the Thursday lecture for him; to which he assented. After the lecture was over, as they were going home, they met a traveller on horse-back, of whom Mr. Shute inquired "where he was from?" He answered, "from Plymouth"; when they further inquired "if there was any news?" He answered, "nothing particular, except that old Madam Lothrop died last night." Noah's countenance brightened up on this announcement, and he turned his face again towards Plymouth; and without being able to state any intervening particulars, we know that in three weeks from that time, Priscilla married her third husband in the person of her first lover, and was settled at Fairfield as "the minister's help-meet," and the wife of the Rev. Noah Hobart.

CHAPTER V.

The life of Priscilla at Fairfield was tranquil and happy; and it is said that she sometimes confessed to her children, in her old age, they being also the children of her other husbands, that the period she lived with Noah was the happiest portion of her life. She had no children by Mr. Hobart. Her oldest son by Mr. Lothrop, Dr. Nathaniel Lothrop, married Ellen Hobart, the daughter of Noah, and thus contributed further to cement this happy and long deferred union. Priscilla, however, was destined to be a widow for the third time, as the Rev. Noah Hobart died at Fairfield in the year 1773, and left her in possession of his homestead there.

CHAPTER VI.

After the death of Mr. Hobart, Priscilla remained at Fairfield, occupying his house and receiving the manifestations of the affection and respect of his late parish for a period of six years, until July, 1779, when the whole village of Fairfield was burned by the English troops under the command of Gov. Tryon. Being now houseless, she returned to Plymouth, and occupied the house in which she had lived with her second husband, Mr. Lothrop. Here she lived serenely and happily many years, in the enjoyment of the blessings resulting from a well-spent and virtuous life. In the

year 1786, when I was a child of about six years old, being on a visit to Plymouth with my father, I well recollect visiting her, and being by her most cordially received, and welcomed as the first of her great-grandchildren whom she had seen; and as a token of her satisfaction, and for a memorial of herself, she gave me a pair of gold sleeve-buttons as a keepsake. She was at this time eighty years old, her mental and corporeal faculties in perfection. Her carriage was exceedingly upright. Her person was small and well-formed, not exceeding in height five feet, one or two inches. Her countenance was animated and expressive, and gave decidedly the impression of having been handsome, resembling that of her granddaughter, the late Mrs. Judge Davis, more than any other of her descendants whom I have seen. She lived until 1796, nearly ten years after this interview, and died in June of that year, aged ninety years.